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مَكَّةُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

# THE TIMES

The real foe facing  
Mr Wilson:  
Ronald Butt, page 14

## Irish angered by British complaints on terrorism

h criticism of the Irish Government's treat-  
of republican extremists may jeopardize  
Irish relations on extradition and border  
ty, it is feared. Leading Irish ministers  
ain that the "propaganda" has been used  
ffect public attention from embarrassing  
ents in Northern Ireland.

## Joint extradition and security aims at risk

Christopher Walker  
w threat to Anglo-Irish  
relations is looming over the  
border security issues of extradi-  
tion and border security. The  
Irish government is angered by  
the British media's criticism of  
its handling of the two countries  
terrorism.

Irish government is  
over what it regards as  
malicious  
by the British media  
security forces, particularly  
Yard's bomb squad, to  
its treatment of  
an extremists. English  
of the affair of Miss  
McKearney was  
last night by a  
Irish official as a

This week an official  
nt will be made to the  
Embassy in Dublin about  
aged use of Northern  
as a haven by militant  
us". Officials from the  
Department of Foreign  
will cite the Ulster  
Association's claim of  
ability for the bombing  
in airport last Saturday,  
will also remind the  
that no one has yet been  
for the bombs planted  
republic last May which  
2 people.

ing members of the Irish  
maintain that what they  
the recent British prop-  
has been used to de-  
bilitate opinion from recent  
assessing incidents in  
Ireland and the  
by the British Army to  
the latest upsurge in  
by the Provisional IRA.  
obby briefing restricted  
political correspondents  
n, Mr Cooney, Minister  
ce, criticized British

## Ratepayers win sewerage case

topher Warman  
verment  
ndent  
a million ratepayers  
remises are not con-  
main sewers should  
ack £60m from the  
chiorities as a result  
of Lords judgment  
that they need not  
rage charges. The Law  
missed by a majority  
to two an appeal by  
for the Councils in  
West Water. Author-  
contended that Mr  
ymond, of Plymouth,  
had to pay a £4.89  
charge.  
ult is a victory for  
payers' Action Group  
by Mr Ronald Poole, a

## 3 schools go dependent

108 of the 173 direct-grant  
in England and Wales have  
to go independent rather than  
comprehensive schemes. A  
up by the Direct Grant Joint  
e shows 52 girls' schools and 56  
ols opting for independence. Mr  
bban, the committee's chairman,  
number was certain to top 110  
Page 4

## by state to buy ah N/Sea assets

to extend Bank of England  
s on Burmah Oil's dollar bond  
nd for the Government to make  
by all or part of Burmah's  
assets were quite separate,  
at the Department of Energy  
d last night. This followed a  
in the House of Commons by  
wood Benn, Secretary of State  
y, on Burmah Page 17

## ord's meetings

Ford talked yesterday on "in-  
issues" with Mr Teng Hsiao-  
Deputy Prime Minister. The  
e was believed to be their dif-  
ws on détente. This was also  
have been the subject of Mr  
s with Chairman Mao-Tse-tung  
y Page 7

## an King abdicates

ang Vathana, of Laos, has  
and the country has been pro-  
"People's Democratic Repub-  
ic" was declared by a People's  
called by the Pathet Lao, after  
to dissolve the present coalition  
nt Page 7

## Mr Healey hits out at Germany and US

By Peter Jay  
Economics Editor  
Mr Healey, Chancellor of the  
Exchequer, hit back last night  
at countries such as the United  
States and West Germany which  
have recently been making  
strong private representations  
to the British Government about  
the danger of import controls,  
even selective and temporary  
ones, to the world's free trading  
system.

Speaking at a dinner at the  
Institute of Export in London,  
Mr Healey said that "not only  
controls on imports may restrict  
the growth of world trade".  
In an obvious reference to  
Washington and Bonn, he  
added: "Even more dangerous  
would be the failure of govern-  
ments which have large reserves  
and low inflation rates to pro-  
vide markets for their weaker  
partners by holding back the  
growth of their domestic  
demand."

The Chancellor's repetition of  
his recurrent demands of the  
past 18 months that other coun-  
tries should risk more inflation  
so that Britain can export more  
will particularly irritate the  
American and West German  
governments.  
They have both gone out of  
their way in recent weeks, as  
at the recent Rambouillet meet-  
ing, to accommodate the British  
Government's political difficul-  
ties by publicly tolerating the  
notion of temporary and selec-  
tive controls.

Mr Healey even tried last  
night to put the blame for the  
idea on the United States when  
he remarked: "There may be a  
case, as the United States  
Ambassador was reported to  
have said the other day, for  
Britain to impose temporary im-  
port controls in a few selected  
areas where a sharp increase  
in imports threatens the survival  
of an industry which would be  
viable in normal times."

That formulation in fact  
originated with the Prime Min-  
ister in a public speech, and  
the Ambassador, Mr Richardson,  
echoed it in an attempt to be  
as helpful as possible while point-  
ing out the dangers in general  
of import controls.  
Some Americans felt last  
night that if that is the way  
their attempts to be helpful in  
public when in fact they have  
discreetly made their misgivings  
clear—are going to be exploited  
by ministers, they will have to  
be more careful.

They see a great difference  
between a temporary world  
recession caused by the attempt  
to master a previous world  
inflation and a progressive un-  
knitting of the fabric of liberal  
trade.

tion to make a repayment to  
affected ratepayers.  
The council will meet De-  
partment of the Environment  
officials shortly to discuss how  
the repayment is to be made.  
But first it must be decided  
whether local authorities, as  
agents of the water authorities,  
are empowered to make the re-  
payments.  
Then, because the legislation  
involved in the payments has  
been judged to be mistaken,  
there is the question of who  
will make the repayments.  
"The Government could say  
there was a mistake and step  
in with the money," Lord  
Nugent said optimistically.  
Law Report, page 23

## Trawler wire cut, then radio jamming prevents help appeals reaching defence ships Icelandic gunboat Aegir runs rings round the Royal Navy

From Michael Horswell  
On board the support ship  
Miranda off south-east Iceland  
Dec 3  
The Icelandic gunboat Aegir  
run amuck among the British  
trawler fleet off south-east  
Iceland today, adding a new  
chapter of violence to the cod  
war. The raid, under the nose  
of the Royal Navy, was carried  
out after a decoy gunboat had  
been planted to draw off the  
frigates Falkland and Brighton.  
Then, radio jamming by the  
Aegir prevented trawlers from  
alerting defence ships. Later, it  
was understood, defence com-  
manders were meeting to con-  
sider security measures.

The gunboat Odin sailed early  
last night, trailed by the two  
frigates. Then, before dawn, the  
Aegir struck, after slipping un-  
detected out of Seydisfjord. It  
cut one warp of the Grimsey  
trawler Boston Comanche and  
harassed two Hull trawlers by  
dangerously shining search-  
lights on their bridges.  
The manoeuvre was too fast  
to allow the defence vessels to  
get between the Aegir and the  
38 trawlers, and the ease with  
which the gunboat accomplished  
its mission is now giving deep  
concern.

The Aegir jammed the VHF  
channel on which trawler  
skippers call for assistance and  
prevented trawlers immediately  
alerting the Brighton. The jam-  
ming was carried out with  
stunning simplicity. The Aegir  
constantly pressed and de-  
pressed the trigger button on the  
VHF link and whistled  
down the line so that the  
Brighton was left unaware of  
the full situation.

The attack began at 4.15, five  
hours before the grey Icelandic  
dawn, in moderate waters as  
the trawlers were fishing. Over  
the VHF, a skipper shouted:  
"Name hasard's cut the warp."  
It was Mr Joe Harris of the  
trawler Aldershot who saw the  
Aegir attack the Boston Com-  
anche near by with its speci-  
ally developed four-prong  
gunned with hardened steel  
curters that go through warp  
like a knife through butter.  
Mr Roy Harris, skipper of the  
Boston Comanche, bristling  
with anger, confirmed the  
strike.

The alert reached the de-  
fence vessel Eurymach, which  
went among the trawlers  
at full speed, and the ocean-  
going tug Lloydman which fol-  
lowed it in.  
But it was too late. The Aegir  
practically neutralized the  
Brighton by the radio jamming  
and sped off to the Hull  
trawlers, Falkland and Ross  
Leamings, blinding them with  
its powerful searchlights.  
The Aegir then spread con-  
fusion among the panicking  
trawler fleet by calling to its  
sister gunboat, Tyr, on the  
VHF. "Hello, Tyr, Hello Tyr,  
this is the Aegir, this is the  
Aegir..."  
The furious trawlermen took  
their revenge by blocking the  
VHF themselves and preventing  
the Aegir from speaking. But  
they had been fooled. The Tyr  
was nowhere among them, and  
the decoy message spread fur-  
ther confusion. All news had  
been halted in by then.  
The gunboat captain has a  
panache which could only be  
stunished by the politically un-  
usable guns of the frigates.  
The Aegir slipped undetected  
out of Seydisfjord to launch its  
attack, and completely out-  
manoeuvred the flotilla of de-  
fence vessels by sailing north  
of the trawlers, between them  
and the coast. Then it came in  
on their blind side, from the  
east, cocking a snook at the  
defence vessels which parolled  
to the south-west and north-west  
and failed to see it in time on  
the radar trap.  
The only real retaliation came  
from the patriotic Mr Harris in  
the Aldershot who will not hear  
a word said against his country.  
When the VHF allowed it, he  
blasted "Land of Hope and  
Glory" from a cassette player  
across the waters.  
Continued on page 6, col 5

## No progress in NHS talks at No 10

By John Roper  
Medical Reporter  
The meeting between Mr  
Wilson and doctors' leaders at  
10 Downing Street yesterday  
brought no immediate progress  
towards resolving the crisis in  
the National Health Service.  
After an hour's discussion, at  
which Mrs Castle, Secretary of  
State for Social Services, was  
present, an official joint state-  
ment said only: "Both sides  
feel the discussions have been  
valuable. The Government will  
shortly be in touch with the  
profession again."

Dr Derek Stevenson, secre-  
tary of the British Medical  
Association, said: "I hope we  
get some communication from  
the Government within 24  
hours, in view of the grave situa-  
tion in the National Health  
Service."  
Only the private practice  
issue was discussed at the meet-  
ing.

The junior doctors' overtime  
protest, which has brought  
disruption to almost every  
hospital in the country, was not  
discussed.

The joint statement added  
that Lord Goodman was  
present at the meeting at the  
prime Minister's residence.  
Lord Goodman was adviser to  
the British Medical Association  
when the royal colleges and all  
the health-caring organizations,  
including the Independent  
Hospital Group, framed their  
reply to Mrs Castle's consulta-  
tion document on the separa-  
tion of private beds from the  
health service.

The reply then described the  
proposals as unsound and un-  
desirable and likely to result  
in a further damage to the  
community, the health service  
and the professions.

The BMA said yesterday that  
Lord Goodman was continuing  
to advise it and would do so on  
whatever emerged from the  
recent discussions.  
The representatives of the  
profession at the meeting were:  
Sir Rodney Smith, President of  
the Royal College of Surgeons;  
Mr Walpole Lewin, chairman  
of the BMA Council; Dr Derek  
Stevenson, BMA's general con-  
sultants; Mr David Bolt, chair-  
man and deputy chairman of  
the Central Committee for Hos-  
pital Medical Services; Dr  
Norman Simmons, president of  
the Hospital Consultants and  
Specialists; Dr J. J. Richards,  
association member of the  
Hospital Junior Staffs Com-  
mittee; and Mr Ronald Allen,  
secretary of the British Dental  
Association.

MPs' support: The Manifesto  
Group of moderate Labour MPs  
last night gave strong support  
to Mrs Castle. Dr Dickson  
Union retaliates, page 2

## Wilson tactics at Rome summit arouse concern of Tory MPs

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Mr Wilson will be making  
a statement in the Commons  
today on the compromise agree-  
ment reached in Rome on  
Britain's representation at the  
world energy conference, which  
begins in Paris on December  
16. Nevertheless, MPs took  
the opportunity of a debate  
yesterday on the European  
Community to give advance  
warning of their concern over  
the Government's tactics and  
the outcome.

Mr Hattersley, Minister of  
State with special responsibility  
for EEC affairs, restricted his  
debate by the Community to  
the declaration that any objec-  
tive observer would see that  
Britain's interest as an energy  
producer had been fully safe-  
guarded by the arrangements  
reached in Rome. He assured  
MPs that Britain's special po-  
sition had been recognized.

The Prime Minister, he  
added, would expand in his  
statement on all the points  
raised. There was no virtue,  
Mr Hattersley said, in looking  
for artificial cooperation.  
Mr Maundling, opening the  
debate from the Tory front  
bench, remarked that he was  
beginning to understand how it

was that the Prime Minister  
could always claim a victory  
when everyone else knew it was  
failure. He welcomed the agree-  
ment secured, but wondered  
what the cost would be in the  
long-term relationship between  
Britain and the rest of the  
Community.  
He doubted if any minister  
before had emerged from an  
international conference with  
as much egg on his face as had  
the Foreign Secretary in Rome  
on Tuesday. Mr Callaghan had  
gone into the conference say-  
ing that no possible formula  
could be produced that would  
permit Britain to be represen-  
ted by the Community at the  
energy meeting. Yet that was  
precisely what had happened.  
He had started off to be a  
modern Palmerston and had  
finished up as the Grand Old  
Duke of York.

Mr Maundling said that he  
had warned the Foreign Sec-  
retary that he would have to climb  
down. Happily he had climbed  
down, and this was a good  
thing. The Prime Minister had  
been trying to save Mr Calla-  
ghan's face, which was a laud-  
able thing to do, but the extent  
to which he had gone was  
extraordinary, even for Mr  
Wilson.

He suggested that there was  
a lot of explaining to be done  
about what exactly had been  
achieved. Mr Callaghan had  
been quoted as saying that the  
document would contain "a lot  
of cotton wool". Mr Maundling  
thought that this was not a  
good description of the basic  
negotiating brief of the Com-  
munity in a matter of this  
importance.  
Britain, it seemed, was not to  
have a special seat separate  
from the Community. Mr  
Maundling did not think that,  
looking back, anyone thought  
that she would have. What  
would Britain have instead?  
He asked also for an explana-  
tion of the proposal that the  
president of the energy con-  
ference would be empowered to  
invite other countries to  
present additional comments in  
the light of their experience but  
in accordance with the agreed  
mandate.  
Mr Maundling also asked for  
clarification of the agreement  
on a floor price for oil. Had  
this price been agreed and was  
it \$7 a barrel? He suggested  
that there was not much use in  
having a guarantee of \$7 when  
the current price was already  
\$11 or \$12.  
Wounds to EEC, page 5  
Leading article, page 15

## Paris bank robbers hold 30 hostages

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, Dec 3  
About 30 people, customers  
and staff, were taken hostage  
today by two or three heavily  
armed men who held up a Paris  
bank not far from the Quai  
d'Orsay. Tonight, the hostages  
were waiting anxiously for  
outcome as the police brought  
up the \$900,000 (£450,000) half  
in dollars, half in francs, that  
the bandits were demanding as  
ransom.

## Editor and writer may be barred by MPs

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent  
Mr Andrew Knight, editor of  
The Economist, and Mr Mark  
Schreiber, one of its journal-  
istic contributors who has been  
a special adviser on policy to  
two leaders of the Opposition,  
Mr Heath and Mrs Thatcher,  
will be excluded from the pre-  
sents of the House of Com-  
mons for six months if a recom-  
mendation from the Committee  
of Privileges, published yester-  
day, is endorsed by the House.  
The penalty is proposed  
because on October 11 The  
Economist published an article  
under the heading "Wealth  
Tax" that gave details of a con-  
fidential draft report, circulated  
to MPs on the select committee  
examining the subject for con-  
sideration at their next meeting.  
The committee found that  
publication of the details con-  
stituted a contempt of Parlia-  
ment. "Mr Knight's conduct  
was blameworthy in deciding  
to publish what he knew was  
a draft committee document,  
and reckless in deciding to go  
ahead when he suspected that  
he was acting in contempt of  
Parliament", the committee's  
report says.  
The editor must bear the  
chief responsibility for publica-  
tion, and for the form the  
article took of an explicit  
account of the contents of a  
draft report.  
Concerning Mr Schreiber,  
who wrote the article, the  
report says: "It appeared to  
us that Mr Schreiber consid-  
ered that it was for him to de-  
cide what confidential information  
he would treat as secret and  
what he would not, irrespective  
of the views of the House. We  
Continued on page 2, col 4



Mrs Castle arriving for  
yesterday's talks.

Mahon, the chairman, said  
after a meeting of the group  
that people had been making  
representations about pressing  
the Government to refer the  
subject of pay beds to the Royal  
Commission on the National  
Health Service.  
"The members are quite un-  
sympathetic to that view", he  
said. The commitment had been  
made in the party's manifesto,  
and the group believed it should  
be honoured.  
Photograph, page 5

## 18 manage to escape from hijacked Dutch train

From Sue Masterman  
The Hague, Dec 3  
Seventeen hostages managed  
to escape today from the rear  
of the train hijacked by five  
South Moluccan terrorists near  
Eindhoven in the Dutch countryside.  
They had been without food for  
more than 24 hours.  
The terrorists were in the  
front of the train, guarding  
another 55 hostages. Although  
they had themselves held at gun-  
point the passengers in the rear  
coaches had been repeatedly  
warned over the train's inter-  
com that they would be shot if  
they tried to escape.  
In addition, the train guard,  
Mr H. J. Brinker, who was in  
the front of the train, succeeded  
in escaping under the noses of  
his captors. He was giving  
information tonight to the  
authorities.  
The Dutch Government has  
reestablished contact with the  
terrorists.  
During the afternoon a field  
telephone was installed over  
which the Moluccans could  
negotiate directly with the  
authorities, now installed in  
Eindhoven. This is a direct link to  
the crisis control centre in The  
Hague.  
The gunmen demanded a bus  
to take themselves and their

hostages to Amsterdam airport  
and set a deadline of 10 am  
tomorrow for leaving the site  
of the hijack. They also wanted  
aircraft to take them abroad,  
but the Government has said  
they will on no account be  
allowed to leave the country.  
Mr Andreas van Agt, the  
Dutch Minister of Justice, has  
said that force may be used if  
the hijacking lasts much longer.  
The terrorists are believed  
to have demanded the release  
of 16 South Moluccans who  
have been tried and convicted  
of plotting to take Queen  
Juliana hostage earlier this  
year.  
Mr Freddy Appono, leader  
of the Free South Moluccan  
Organization, said tonight that  
the terrorists were members of  
his association which repre-  
sents the militant wing among  
the young South Moluccans. He  
said their action was the result  
of recent arrests of Moluccans  
in Indonesia, and a protest  
against the Dutch refusal to re-  
gard the problem of the Moluc-  
cans in the Netherlands as polit-  
ical and not social.  
Food, drink, medicine and  
blankets were taken this morn-  
ing to the front coaches. A list  
of necessities had been brought  
by a Chinese cook, released by  
the terrorists.

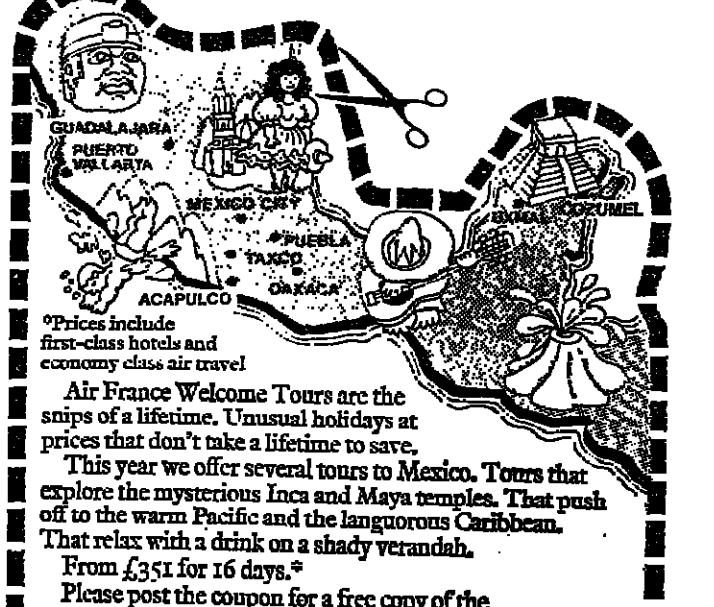
## Fire on North Sea gas rig

A fire on board the Amoco  
gas production platform 36  
miles off Great Yarmouth yester-  
day damaged the platform  
and brought supply vessels, two  
helicopters and a naval tug to  
the scene.  
The crew of 12 shut down  
production and put out the fire.  
Five of them were moved to  
platforms near by for a time.  
An investigation will start  
today.

## £100,000 raid on London jeweller

Five gunmen stole jewelry  
and watches valued at £100,000  
from a Hatton Garden diamond  
merchant's business at 5.15 pm  
yesterday after blinding the  
manager and staff of six with  
adhesive tape.  
Mr Jerry Sartin, the man-  
ager, and his staff were forced  
into a store room, and the safe  
keys were taken. They broke  
out later.

## Mexico: the snip of a lifetime



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economy class air travel  
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Middlesex.  
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T 4/12

## Lisbon takes control of radio and TV

The Portuguese Government is to take  
direct control of radio and television  
services, strongly influenced by the left, to  
"ensure ideological pluralism", it is said.  
The Catholic radio station seized by leftists,  
is to be returned to the church Page 5

## Closed shop issue

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration  
service is to intervene in the case of six  
power station workers dismissed for not  
belonging to a recognized trade union Page 2

## Record for painting

A rare oil painting by Toulouse-Lautrec,  
"Fille a l'Achroche Coeur", was sold at  
Sotheby's yesterday for £25,000 with pre-  
mium, an auction record for the artist Page 16

## Doctor struck off

A doctor, aged 79, who was  
accused of supplying drugs indiscrimi-  
nately, has been struck off Page 3

## Drinking drivers

The proportion of  
motorists convicted a second time for  
drink-and-driving offences has doubled in  
the past five years Page 4

## Chrysler aid 'unfair'

The Ford Motor Company and Vauxhall  
Motors, both American-owned, have  
objected to Mr Varley, Secretary of State  
for Industry, saying that a state rescue of  
Chrysler 13 would give competitor  
an unfair financial advantage Page 17

## Leading articles

After the EEC summit:  
Laos: Is The Times like Dr Goebbels?  
Features, pages 9 and 14  
Lord Portchester argues that devolution must  
stop with Wales and Scotland: Adam  
Fergusson on the damning evidence against  
invalid tricycles; Shopping by John Grosor  
Arts, page 12

## Book review

Paul Moor on the East German view of the  
American Indian: Stanley Reynolds on The  
Book Programme (BBC 2); Kenneth Lovell  
on David Wynne's Night Music at the  
Candle; Philip Norman reviews Queen at the  
Hammer-Smith Odeon  
Sport, pages 10 and 11

## Rugby Union

Australia select three new caps  
against Scotland; Football: Yeovil eliminated  
from FA Cup; Tennis: Australian prize masters  
tournament; Ice Skating: British figure  
skating championships  
Books, page 12

## Michael Easton on Solzhenitsyn's Gulag

Archipelago, volume 2; reviews of Edward  
Heath's Solzhenitsyn; Eamonn Meehan's biography of  
Margaret Thatcher  
Business News, pages 17-22

## Stock market

Further gains in shares were  
sharply reduced when Wall Street opened  
lower  
Financial Editor: Contrasting views on J.  
Lyons: Australian losses at Phoenix; Christ-  
mas uncertainty for W. H. Smith  
Peter Jay: Getting to the financial heart of  
devolution  
Business feature: Peter Norman explains why  
the Swiss could face a long haul out of  
recession  
Business Diary: The National Enterprise  
Board names its man in the North-west; Ema  
Low pays £5,100 for her own name

Home News	2-4	Court	16	TV & Radio	27
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Overseas News	6-7	Diary	14	25 Years Ago	16
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Books	12	Law Report	15		
Business	17-22	Letters	15		



HOME NEWS

# Hospital union blacks 158 private beds as retaliatory move

By Robert Parker

The National Union of Public Employees (Nupe), which represents many hospital ancillary workers, yesterday carried out its threat to retaliate when it considers consultants are taking industrial action.

All 158 private beds in Birmingham's 18 hospitals were blacked by Nupe workers after what the union said was industrial action by consultants. The union's action means that private patients cannot get bed-linen changed or meals cooked or brought to them by Nupe members.

Junior hospital doctors in the north-west London yesterday met London ambulancemen to help them with difficult cases they have been having in finding hospitals to accept emergency patients.

Dr John Northover, a representative of the junior doctors, said: "The meeting agreed to make certain modifications in the implementation of industrial action in the north-west region. It is hoped this will ease certain difficulties faced by the London Ambulance Service."

The modifications involve working a flexible 40-hour week, instead of the rigid 9 am to 5 pm system that has been adopted by many doctors all over the country. They will vary the hours they work in each hospital in the area.

The London Ambulance Service said that yesterday it had difficulty in getting a road accident victim certified dead. A man, who was injured in Edgware Road, Colindale, had been driven round for an hour before doctors could be found to examine him.

He was taken first to Edgware General Hospital, near Uxbridge, where an ambulance spokesman said, "a nursing sister refused to call a doctor to examine or certify the patient. Eventually he was taken to Stannmore Hospital, three miles away, where he was seen by a doctor and certified at 1.20 am."

## Formal verdict on two pipeline divers

A formal verdict was returned last night at Kirkwall Sheriff Court, Orkney, on two divers, Peter Carson, aged 20, and Peter Walsh, aged 25, who died in the North Sea in July while working on a pipeline.

The inquiry was told that Mr Carson, of Lochaber Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, was sucked into the pipeline. Attempts were made to rescue him by forcing him out of the underwater pipe with a high pressure pump but he drowned. Mr Walsh, of Burnshaw Avenue, Burnley, Lancashire, was already dead at the entrance to the pipe.

Mr Douglas Walton, managing director of Walter Mole (GB), of Middlesbrough, said his company had been setting up an offshore lock system on the island of Flotta, in Scapa Flow, to a mooring buoy. The aim was to coat the inner surface of the pipeline by propelling a device through it.

After the inquiry he said his equipment had been modified and a new diving procedure had been worked out with government, factory inspectors and American diving experts for use when operations resumed at Scapa Flow in the spring.

## Government asked to aid women's centre

By Penny Symon

Mrs Iris Pizer, founder of Chiswick Women's Aid Centre for battered wives and their children, welcomed Home Secretary's decision, announced yesterday, to restore its grant to the centre. She added that its financial needs were so great that the Government would have to give financial help.

The council decided in October to serve an order on the centre, compelling it to reduce its membership from 110 to 36. It withheld payment of the grant for October and November because of overcrowding, but women and children from the Chiswick hostel moved into the derelict Palm Court Hotel in Richmond and that reduced the numbers at Chiswick.

The council said yesterday that at least 100 women and 20 children living at Chiswick, it would pay the grant for the past two months and continue to pay on a monthly basis.

"We welcome the council's decision to restore our grant, and we will do our best not to get overcrowded," Mrs Pizer said. "But people should realize that we are dealing with a national problem, and one which we get very little government help with. We are in a desperate situation and we need money badly. The Government has done nothing for us."

Mrs Pizer said she had been in touch with Mr Meacher, Under-Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, who had promised that Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, would make a statement in the Commons soon.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, who has been campaigning on behalf of battered wives, has been told by Mr Freeson, Minister for Housing and Construction, that if local authorities need his help in acquiring property in the house of a woman, he will respond as quickly and constructively as possible.

## Privilege ruling seen as freedom threat

By Philip Howard

The proposal of the Committee of Privileges of the House of Commons to ban the editor of *The Economist* and one of his political journalists from the House of Commons for six months is unusual. Its suggestion that the committee should be empowered to impose fines in such cases is at present unconstitutional, and at all times dangerous.

The power of the Commons to punish violation of its privileges is akin to the powers possessed by the courts of justice to punish contempt.

For more than two centuries the punitive powers of the Commons have been restricted to committing to prison for an unspecified period, usually until the offender presented a petition expressing proper contrition for his offence, and solemn reprimand and admonition by the Speaker. Until 1750 the offender was made to kneel, and in that year a man called Murray was committed to prison for refusal to kneel, that being described in the official records as a most dangerous contempt of privilege.

The last man to be so reprimanded was Mr John Junor, editor of the *Sunday Express* in 1957, for having implied that MPs were receiving an unfair allocation of supplementary petrol allowances.

It is a new departure for the committee to propose barring journalists from Parliament. Admission and exclusion of journalists from the press gallery and lobby are the function of the Selecting Arms, acting under the directions of the Speaker. That is what Bagehot would have described as the dignified facade of the procedure.

The efficient part of the procedure, which advises in practice which journalists shall be admitted, is the unofficial committee of lobby journalists. The notable journalist excluded in recent years has been Mr Ambrose Wright, who wished to be admitted to Parliament as lobby correspondent of *Private Eye*. As a consequence he has since then had unkind things to say about both the Speaker and the lobby system.

The proposal of the committee that fines would be a suitable punishment for breaches of privilege, halfway between imprisonment and a

rebuke, was favoured by many members of the Privileges Committee in the debate of 1969. It is nevertheless an alarming proposal and has been fiercely resisted in the past.

Under the law only a court of record has the power to impose fines. The House of Lords claims without serious dispute to be such a court, and accordingly has the power to fine and to commit offenders to prison for a specified term even beyond the duration of the session. The Commons claimed, unconvincedly, in the past to be a court of record; but that claim has been virtually abandoned for more than two centuries, although never distinctly renounced.

The last fine imposed by the Commons occurred in 1666: a fine of £1,000 was imposed on Thomas White, who absconded after he had been ordered into the custody of the Sergeant at Arms.

More instructive was *Floyde's* case in 1621. *Floyde* had spoken offensive words concerning the daughter of James I and her husband, the Elector Palatine. Although there was no breach of parliamentary privilege in that, the

Commons sentenced *Floyde* to pay a fine of £1,000, and to stand in the pillory twice, and to ride backwards on a horse, with the horse's tail in his hand.

Both King and Lords recognized that the Commons were acting ultra vires and removed the offender to be dealt with by the Lords, who proceeded to still more exemplary punishments. That notorious case was probably the result of religious intolerance, *Floyde* being a Roman Catholic, and the Elector Palatine a champion of Protestantism.

The proposal that the Commons should be able to fine, although at first sight reasonable, is therefore an old and alarming one. No journalist worth his salt will shrink from being called to the Bar of the House or even from imprisonment for a cause that seems professionally a good one, such as protecting his sources. If the Commons had the power to fine, and if they exercised that power as energetically as they will think twice before doing his duty. And that, although bully for the Commons, would be an erosion of freedom for the rest of us.

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## McWhirter killer hunt leads back to IRA unit

By Stewart Tendler

The hunt for the man known as Michael Wilson, named after the IRA group in Southampton and possible cause of his real identity.

Two men are being held by police investigations after discovery of the IRA group in December when several men were shot in the city of them was imprisoned harbouring two unnamed men.

The link between Wilson and the IRA group was discovered by a search of the Yard fingerprint files. Wilson's fingerprints began matching prints belonging to Wilson. Other sets. From comparison they have found similar prints on the deceased bomb maker. The IRA group was discovered, with its cache of explosives, in a house in the road, Southampton.

Both men being held are likely to be questioned what they know of Wilson's activities through Britain, continue to tell him. He may not have left country. The IRA will be built up some form of new safe houses, and on occasions IRA men are known to have travelled across country.

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## Chemical firm accused over safety at plant

Laporte Industries, a chemical company, failed to maintain part of its plant in a safe condition, magistrates at Stratford, London, were told yesterday.

Mr John Fallis, an inspector of health and safety, said it should have known several days before an explosion that killed one of its workers that all was not well.

Laporte pleaded not guilty to failing to maintain the plant at Ilford safety.

The explosion last April was in the electrolyser plant, one of only three such pieces of equipment in Britain, which splits water into hydrogen and oxygen.

"It is our case," he said, "that the plant was not maintained safe and it allowed hydrogen and oxygen to mix so as to make an explosion inevitable."

Mr William Fenn, an operator at the plant since it started in 1962, said there had been a defect earlier in the week. That had been repaired the day before the explosion.

When he went on duty on the day of the explosion he heard a noise from the oxygen, and the temperature was high. He added: "I asked what they had done, and I was not quite happy with what they had done."

When the man who died in the blast, Mr Robert Church, came on duty he told him to

## report to the foreman at 7.30 am. Mr Fenn said he got back at 9 am for a cup of tea and to see whether it was all right.

He said it seemed all right. The explosion was at 11.10 am.

Mr Thomas Campbell, another operator, said that about four days before the explosion he had heard crackling noises. His response was to panic and to reduce the pressure. Work was carried out the next day; the day after that, when it was running again, the crackling noises had disappeared.

Mr Cyril Townsend, who investigated the accident for the health and safety inspectorate, said he would not attribute the explosion to the breakdown of the plant. "I would have been most alarmed and concerned," he said.

Asked about damage to cells, he replied: "I cannot conceive how this corrosion type of breakdown could have taken place in a short time. I think it would have been going on for at least weeks."

Mr Graeme Hamilton, for Laporte, told the magistrates: "My case will be that the break was a late one." Laporte was in no way suggesting that the dead man had not died.

The hearing will continue on January 28.

## Councillor was burglar after meetings

From Our Correspondent

Winchester After prolonged council meetings, Councillor Patrick Stewart turned up at his home, raiding offices and homes in the rich, it was alleged at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. The police found the proceeds hidden in a shed at his home in Salisbury Road, Andover.

For five years Mr Stewart, aged 43, had served on the town council and the new Test Valley District Council, and for three of those years he had been a burglar.

He pleaded guilty to two charges of burglary and asked for 12 months' detention, including nine burglaries to be considered. He was given two concurrent 18-month jail sentences, suspended for two years, ordered to pay £120 compensation, and prosecution and defence costs estimated at £700.

"Everything I have worked for has been destroyed," he said. "I only wish I had been caught earlier."

## Union membership issue for conciliation service

From Ronald Kershaw Industrial Correspondent

Leeds The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service will intervene in the public hearing at the Leeds industrial tribunal today into the controversial case of six men dismissed at the Ferrybridge power station, near Pontefract, West Yorkshire, by the Central Electricity Generating Board, for not belonging to one of four unions recognized by the board for negotiating purposes.

The findings of the tribunal will clearly have an impact on existing and future closed shop agreements between unions and employers.

Mr George Smalles, chairman of the tribunal, suggested the intervention of the conciliation service yesterday at the opening of the hearing into the allegations of wrongful dismissal by the six men.

After a difference of opinion between legal representatives for the board and the applicants over the type of cases to be made, the chairman said to Mr Alexander Irvine, for the

generating board: "I do not think any intelligent observer of your opening can avoid having a certain amount of concern as to whether, in the cases of at least four of these applicants, the matter might not be solved by conciliation."

Mr Smalles said he gathered that four of the men, even if at the last minute and under protest, had said they were prepared to join one of the four unions. "This is the kind of foolish problem that arises in industry, that by their own skills, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service manage to provide a solution," he said. "What I am concerned about is these gentlemen can get back in their jobs and reasonable peace and harmony can prevail in the electricity supply industry."

Mr Irvine said: "This case will bring into sharp focus the tensions that can arise on the shop floor when two basic rights are asserted and clash. The right of the worker not to be a trade union



## McW...OME NEWS killer doctor who leads applied to IRA drugs struck to IRA roll

The hunt for Dr. Kenneth Deakin, aged 79, of 11, Kenilworth Road, Atherton, Lancashire, who was found dead in his car by the Disciplinary Committee of the General Medical Council yesterday of serious professional misconduct, and who was ordered to be struck from the register. He was charged with having issued prescriptions for drugs other than for the treatment of his patients.

Robert Wright, the chairman of the committee, said the decision was made in the public interest. He has 28 years in which to appeal.

Wright said the committee found that since about last year Dr Deakin (known in the medical world as Dr Crispin) had issued numerous prescriptions for drugs other than for the treatment of his patients.

Raymond Sears, QC, for Dr Deakin, said a manslaughter charge was pending, but Mr. Sears said later they had no intention of going to court. He said that at that stage the charge was to be preferred. James Watts, QC, for Dr Deakin, who was not present, said no suggestion had been made that he was not a useful doctor.

Mr. Watts added: "Now we find Dr Deakin lives in the position where he is charged with the knowledge that he is a doctor and is unscrupulously using his position for the kind of person who is the police know well."

The Constable David Haukey, of Manchester drug squad, said he was travelling more than 100 miles to get drugs from Dr Deakin.



Literary award winners: Miss Helen Corke (seen above), who is 93, has won this year's £1,000 Whitbread literary award for biography. *The Improbable* (Cambridge University Press), a memoir of her childhood and early life before the First World War (our Literary Editor writes).

Warmly reviewed in *The Times* last week, Miss Corke's book includes a long section about her friendship with D. H. Lawrence between 1909 and 1912. Indeed Lawrence based

his novel *The Trespasser* on an earlier chapter in her life.

Miss Corke, who lives alone in a cottage at Kelvedon, Essex, received the award in London yesterday from Mr Samuel Whitbread, a director of the brewery.

The best novel prize went to Mr William McEwan for *Dobermann* (Allen and Unwin) and the best first book award to Miss Ruth Spalding for her biography, *The Improbable Puritan: a Life of Bulstrode Whitlocke* (Faber).

## Novelist is library's resident writer

By Kenneth Gussling  
Arts Reporter

Authors seeking a measure of security will be encouraged by the announcement yesterday of the selection of the first writer-in-residence at a London public library.

The author selected from 70 applicants by the Greater London Arts Association is Mr David Benedictus, who lives at East Twickenham, not far from the new library at St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey. He takes up his nine-month appointment in January.

During that time he will spend two days a week in the library; and while he himself was not sure exactly what his duties would be, the association envisages such activities as creative writing seminars; poetry and prose readings; advice on the choice of books; contributing to exhibitions; and giving literary talks.

## Belfast man shot dead at home

The caretaker of a block of Belfast flats was shot dead last night when two gunmen burst into his home.

A friend who was watching television with him was not hurt. The dead man was a Roman Catholic, aged 26. Two men were later helping police.

## Experts insist on Loch Ness body Monsters that faded away 65 million years ago

Only a carcass will convince experts at the Natural History Museum, London, that the Loch Ness monster exists, they said yesterday. They did so after the postponement of next week's scientific symposium in Edinburgh, when colour photographs taken by an American team were to have been discussed.

The organizers of the meeting, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the city's two universities, earlier "severed all links" with the symposium.

Dr Gordon Sheals, keeper of zoology at the museum, said yesterday: "The only incontrovertible evidence must be a body, a skeleton or a really detailed photograph."

The latest pictures, taken 45ft down last June, are not that kind of evidence, the museum scientists say. They point to far more distinct photographs of eels and other fish in Loch

Ness taken under similar conditions.

The experts are disturbed about the scarcity of information on how the photographs were obtained. But they are not automatic disbelievers.

"We are naturalists," Dr Alan Charig, curator of fossil reptiles, said. "If there are creatures like this in Loch Ness it would be exciting."

Dr Humphrey Greenwood, of the museum's fish section, said: "I should very much like to be convinced that there is a plesiosaur in the Loch."

That is the favourite theory of supporters of what scientists cautiously term "unexplained phenomena": that a group of aquatic reptiles from the dinosaur age still survive in the Loch.

There are serious objections to that. Museum scientists point out that the creature became extinct at the end of the Cretaceous Period, 65 million years ago, but Loch Ness was gouged out by glaciers only 12,000 years ago.

Dr G. B. Corbet, deputy keeper of zoology, pointed out that plesiosaurs had been air-breathing animals. "Why are there so few sightings?" he asked. "How could they stay under water for so long?"

Sir Peter Scott, one of the organizers of the Edinburgh meeting, hopes that a new symposium on the photographs will be held in 1976.

Dr Robert Rines, leader of the Boston Academy of Applied Sciences team who obtained the pictures, has cancelled his visit to Britain, scheduled for tomorrow.

Sir Peter, in a statement, emphasized that postponement of the symposium "in no sense reflects on the nature of the evidence or the integrity of those who obtained it."

## In brief

### MP pays up for jailed woman

Mr Charles Irving, Conservative MP for Cheltenham, went to the aid of Miss Catherine Carney, aged 78, of Chiswick, London, yesterday, who was jailed for three months on Tuesday for refusing to pay £19 of her rates. He said a cheque for the amount was on its way to Acton Magistrates' Court. Miss Carney says an elderly single person should not have to pay the same rates as a family.

### Bomb charge remand

Shane Paul O'Doherty, aged 20, a student of Londonderry, was remanded in custody at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday until today week on 32 charges of causing explosions or having explosive substances under his control.

### Paintings damaged

Four paintings were badly damaged yesterday in a fire at the officers' mess of the Royal School of Military Engineering at Gillingham, Kent. Soldiers removed many other valuable paintings.

### Soldier killed

Private I. Lindridge, aged 19, from Hull, was killed and Private John Lofthouse was injured when they were run over by a lorry taking part in a military exercise on Salisbury Plain on Tuesday night.

### Bombed pub reopens

The former Tavern in the Town public house in Epsom, Surrey, devastated a year ago by a terrorist bomb which killed 11 people, was reopened yesterday as Teddy's.

## nion chief replies to r Foot's letter

our Labour Staff

Paul Nicholson, general secretary of the Confederation of Employee Organizations, replied yesterday to the letter to him by Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, warning unemployment benefits for the six workers at Ferrybridge power station, who were issued after refusing to join recognized trade union.

Mr Foot's letter, which was shed in full in *The Times* today, illustrated the conflict between the power of the state and the power of the union, employers and unions,

which were pitched against democratic ideals about the freedom to join, not to join, or resign from a union when they were victims of a closed shop dismissal.

The six men's contracts of employment had been changed without their permission by employers and unions. Mr Nicholson said. He had given Mr Foot evidence that the national insurance commissioner had already dealt with a case that connected refusal to join a trade union with eligibility for unemployment benefit.

Leading article, page 15

## Christmas sale turkeys pected to fall

runners expect to sell eight million turkeys this Christmas, British Turkey Federation yesterday. That was fewer than last year, and already the sale of small birds was the trade's target. Mr and Mrs Twiddle, chairman, said prices were higher than a year ago but they had then been as in 1973.

Charles Nokes, chairman of National Federation of Poultry Merchants, here were fewer geese, ducks and frozen capons this year.

Diary, page 14

## Small rise in meat prices is predicted

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

A forecast of next year's beef prices was given at the Royal Smithfield Show by Mr Colin Cullimore, managing director of the Dewhurst chain of butchers' shops. He said there would be no shortage and that on average prices of all fresh meat would be no more than 5p in the pound higher than in 1973.

He predicted that next year beef topside would not exceed 98p a pound. Stewing steak would not exceed 50p for more than a few weeks and rump steak would cost between £1.20 and £1.40.

## British potato crop cost bles in four years

High Clayton

ational Correspondent  
national bill for home potatoes this season will be the first since the 1960s paid years ago, Mr Geoffrey Lam, chairman of the Marketing Board, said at a meeting yesterday. It would be smaller than the 1974 season but then this Britain would have to import 130m on importing.

es have had the worst time period that many of us have ever experienced, followed by one of the worst plantations and a period of

drought that even the oldest among us found without precedent," he said.

Five years ago the crop cost £150 an acre to grow. A year ago the figure was £370, although in the same period the guaranteed price paid to farmers had risen by only three quarters. Next season the growing cost would be more than £500 an acre.

Domestic growers could maintain British self-sufficiency in maincrop potatoes. The board therefore appealed to ministers not to bow to EEC pressure that would oblige Britain to accept unrestricted imports.

## Teachers support ger role governors

Education

pondent  
ol governors should be before the local authority makes an grant, the Association of Independent Schools recommended evidence to the Taylor Committee into the governing management of schools, its that although the head remain responsible for school books and equipment, the governors might be responsible for main buildings. They might allocate funds for small extracurricular activities and school visits and trips.

association has 37,000 members teaching in primary and secondary schools. Yesterday's Headmasters' Association recommended that governors should control the use of allocated to their

students: The number of students on day-release fell from 645,300 in 1973 to 543,100 in 1973. Department of Education and Science disclosed. department yesterday independent further colleges offering 16 courses to apply to be used as efficient. ics of Education, Vol 3: 7 Education, 1973. ury Office, £5.70.

## Men unaware they were in a radiation area

From Our Correspondent

Newark  
Workers at the British Sugar Corporation plant at Newark, Nottinghamshire, were operating on a site unaware that they were in a radiation area, Newark magistrates were told yesterday.

Mr Michael Ellis, an inspector of health and safety, said that while radiographers were making X-ray examinations of steel molasses tanks at the works 16 times the allowed level of reflected radiation was being given off. Workers near by did not know they were in a radiation area.

The radiography company, Minto Ltd, of Florence Street, Middlesbrough was fined £600 after pleading guilty to not giving adequate warning to people in the vicinity while a sealed source was exposed, and to not marking the boundary of the radiation area with barriers or other suitable means during the operation.

## Cheap air excursions

A cheap weekend excursion fare of £25 return between Gatwick airport and either Edinburgh or Glasgow is to be introduced by British Caledonian, the main private sector airline. Normal return air fares between London and the two Scottish cities are £44.



It may seem a little late in the day to tell you why you like them the best.

Ever since the first ship loads of Claret, or 'Claret', from Bordeaux landed at Bristol in the 13th Century, fine wines from the famous regions of France have been popular in this country.

And still today, a huge majority of experts agree that from Bordeaux, the Rhône Valley, the Loire Valley, Champagne, Beaujolais, Bourgogne and Alsace flow most of the finest wines in the world.

The French Government also agree, because most of their 'Appellation Contrôlée' wines come from these great regions. A.C. being the country's highest and oldest designation of fine wine.

A.C. means two things. Firstly it refers to the wine-growing area. Only those parts of France with the perfect combination of soil and climate can produce A.C. wines.

Secondly, it tells you a lot about how the wine is made. The A.C. wines are among the oldest in France and, for centuries, generations of wine-growers have handed down their traditional, proven methods.

They know which vines grow best in which soil. How to prune for a high quality grape. How to replenish the soil without artificially forcing the crop. How to bring on the young wine until it's ripe for bottling.

And thankfully, the Appellation Contrôlée regulations protect all this time-honoured expertise, patience and experience from the unquenchable demand of the modern world.

They regulate the maximum yield of A.C. vine from each vineyard and, importantly, the minimum alcohol content of the wine.

And because every wine has its own personal and localised characteristic, methods differ slightly not only from region to region, but from vineyard to vineyard.

Whether it be a quirk of local climate or soil, every subtle variation is protected by A.C.

This is why 'Appellation Contrôlée' appears on labels in so many different ways. You will see it printed with the

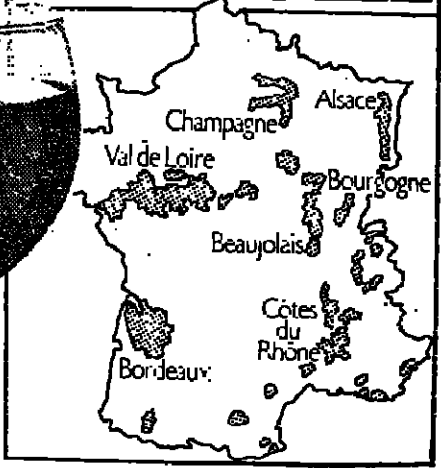
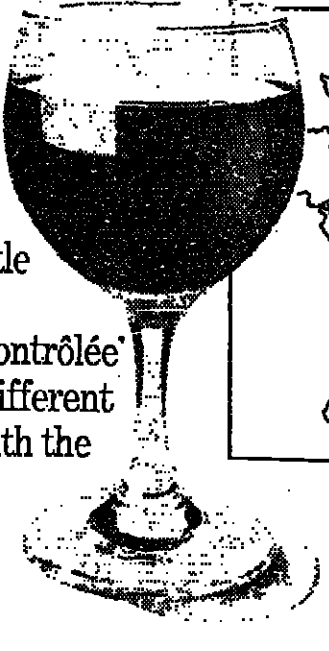
name of the particular cru, vineyard or château.

But however you see them written, the words Appellation Contrôlée are your guarantee that the wine you are buying is not only from one of the best wine-growing regions of France. But has been produced to the most exacting, traditional French methods.

Which is why you've always liked them.

Of course, it wouldn't hurt to buy a bottle some time, just to make sure.

APPELLATION  
CONTRÔLÉE









## Bombing in Britain warns WEU the need of arms standardization

Capitaine Richard Wies, an explosives expert, told the Assembly today that the Western European Union must speak frankly about the continuing need to standardize defence equipment under the Atlantic.

He said that the current situation is "a luxury we can no longer afford".

The French Minister for Defence, Mr. Michel Debré, emphasized the pressing need to standardize arms and equipment in view of the increasing cost of defence spending throughout the world.

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The French Minister for Defence, Mr. Michel Debré, emphasized the pressing need to standardize arms and equipment in view of the increasing cost of defence spending throughout the world.

who claimed that the maintenance of domestic defence industries must always have precedence. "We must speak frankly about the continuing need to standardize defence equipment under the Atlantic."

He emphasized British support for last month's proposal by the Eurogroup defence ministers for setting up a new forum, independent of any direct links with Nato and designed above all to involve France in the renewed effort for European arms standardization.

Questioned by Mr. John Roper, Labour MP for Farnworth, about reports that France had given a guarded positive response to the idea, Mr. Debré said merely that French cooperation would represent "a large step forward".

Herr Karl Mörsch, the West German Deputy Defence Minister, who addressed the WEU yesterday, had indicated his country's willingness to consider the new forum, if it would bring the French in.

No representative of the French Government had appeared before the WEU to clarify the position, nor did any of the French parliamentarians speak up today. But Mr. Michel Debré, the former Gaullist Prime Minister, has for the second time in 48 hours warned the French Government against a "political and industrial trap" if France becomes involved in "discussed" Nato arms standardization, as he sees it.

Mr. Rodgers took the opposite view to the orthodox Gaullists, who fear that such a link will sacrifice Europe's industrial potential. He said that without closer collaboration among Europeans, they could be reduced to playing a role of subcontractors to the United States.



An armed policeman in plain clothes waits outside a Paris bank in which gangsters are holding hostages.

### Wiesenthal suit withdrawn

Vienna, Dec 3.—Dr Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish documentation centre in Vienna, withdrew today his slander suit against Dr Kroisky, the Austrian Chancellor. "Now that Wiesenthal has withdrawn his suit the case is closed," Dr Kroisky said.

## French press wonders if EEC can afford Britain as a partner

### Wounds left by Mr Wilson's wily tactics in Rome will take some time to heal

From Michael Hornsby

Rome, Dec 3

The main gain from the meeting of EEC heads of government here, which after a painful struggle managed to hammer out an eleven-hour solution satisfactory to Mr Wilson, is that the 27-nation conference of consumers and producers of energy can now begin in Paris as scheduled on December 16.

Some details still remain to be settled about who will fill five of the eight seats allocated to the industrialized world, but the other three will now definitely be occupied by the United States, Japan and the European Community.

If the summit meeting had not succeeded yesterday in finding an answer to British demands for a separate seat, the Paris conference would almost certainly have had to be postponed. As Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, remarked, this would have soured the atmosphere within the Community for months to come.

The principle of collective representation for the EEC at Paris has been precariously preserved by means of the curious device of allowing a British minister to be called on by the Community spokesmen to present the Government's views on matters of special interest to it as an oil producer.

For Mr Wilson, the assurance of this "ministerial voice" in Paris apparently made the months-long wrangle over the issue of representation all worth while. Most of his European colleagues, however, felt that he was striking empty nationalist postures for a domestic audience, rather than securing any

real advantages for Britain.

The fact is that the Paris conference itself is likely to be much more concerned with procedure than with substance, and the real work will be done over the months ahead in the special commissions to be set up at the conference. If Britain had been prepared to settle for a "quarantine" in the conference, the dispute could probably have been ended long ago.

The other main gain for Britain, as Mr Wilson saw it, was the general endorsement by heads of government of the need to look at the question of minimum prices for oil and other sources of energy. Herr Schmidt, he pointed out, had even said he was ready to accept a floor price of \$7 (£3.40) a barrel for oil.

Other delegations dispute that there was anything like general acceptance for the principle of floor prices. It does appear, however, that the EEC mandate for the Paris conference will be couched in sufficiently general terms to allow Britain to elaborate its views on floor prices without running counter to the EEC position.

The way in which Mr Wilson, and more particularly Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, pursued the dispute has left wounds which may take time to heal. Mr Wilson's confidence in his wily tactics can only have been reinforced by his blunt claim last night that the demand for a separate seat had been all along only a negotiating tactic designed to wring the maximum concessions from the rest of the EEC.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: President Giscard d'Estaing told the Cabinet today that the

agreement reached in Rome on

Britain's representation at the forthcoming energy conference had demonstrated the value of the European Council in smoothing our major Community difficulties.

"Any body other than the European Council would have been incapable of achieving a single representation of the Community in the face of the (British) claim to separate representation", he said. "The European Council has demonstrated its usefulness in the progress which must be pursued with obstinacy and determination towards the union of Europe."

Satisfaction at the removal of the threat which Britain's "so it alone" attitude involved for the Community is sharply tempered, however, in almost all press comment by the fear that Britain is bound to be a permanent drag on future progress.

The European Council was entirely dominated by British blackmail, to the extent that even the warmest supporters of London have come to ask themselves whether they were really right to hitch this odd insular country to the continent.

Le Progrès de Lyons remarks: "In the European express, which is not going too fast as it is, Mr Harold Wilson looks almost like a passenger without luggage. He has taken the train on the move, as though he were a tourist, constantly arguing over the fare, and hints that at the next stop he might well leave his travelling companions to resume his solitary way."

Sud-Ouest says: "The British

so far have been a burden for the Community, and their attitude in this affair justifies the worst suspicions about the sincerity of their entry into the Community."

Le Miroir of Marseilles writes: "Surely the European Community is not going to spend its time asking itself every three months whether Britain still wants to be part of Europe. Surely it has better things to do than examine periodically these fits of insular fever."

The economic daily Les Echos writes: "The Eight could very well dispense with Britain. The whole political climate of the Community would be altered. But Britain does not for the time being wish to abandon a Europe which will perhaps only be finding its common denominator against the insular partner."

Peter Nichols writes from Rome: The feeling of the Italians, who were in the chair at the European Council meeting, is reasonably buoyant. At least Mr Wilson, whatever his intentions were, is given the benefit of the doubt that he showed due regard for the need to preserve a common European front.

The Milan newspaper, Corriere della Sera states clearly that the meeting might have broken down on the quarrel between Mr Wilson and the West German Chancellor, who put forward his purist European views with polemical vigour. In fact, the Italian view now is that the compromise on the British seat contributed to the undoubted success of the council's decisions on direct elections to the European Parliament and on budgetary policy.

## Lisbon takes control of radio and television

From Michael Knipe

Lisbon, Dec 3

The Portuguese Government announced today that it would take control of all broadcasting except Radio Renascença, the Roman Catholic station.

The statement said radio and television were being reorganised to ensure their ideological pluralism. The immediate effect will be to deprive the left of its control of the Lisbon-based news media, demonstrated during last week's uprising by the refusal of Radio Clube Português, the commercial station, to broadcast the President's communiqué. Loyalist forces closed down the Lisbon transmitters and programmes were beamed from Oporto, where more conservative broadcasters were in control.

Five government-owned newspapers which were also controlled by left-wing elements are already suspended from publishing while staff changes are being completed.

The statement said that Radio Renascença, whose Lisbon studios were seized by leftists in May, would not be affected because of agreements reached in 1949 between the Salazar Government and the Vatican. The studios are expected to be handed back to the church authorities.

Troops brought into Lisbon when last week's left-wing military revolt was crushed are now returning to their bases. Meanwhile during military searches for illegal weapons a number of foreigners living with left-wing agricultural cooperatives have been detained.

Lisbon, Dec 3.—Diplomatic sources said they had reports of up to 15 foreigners having been detained at an agricultural commune outside Lisbon.

## Alimony claim led to dental fraud charge

Our Own Correspondent

Dec 3

Twenty teeth are on edge in Sicily, after the opening of an inquiry into the practices of certain local dentists.

They are accused of extracting paper at least the tooth 22 times, filling already taken out, pulling 56 teeth from the same mouth and other practices amounting to a sum of £3,000 (£2,140,000) in the case of a health insurance

public prosecutor has completed an inquiry and laid over the dossier to an investigating judge. So far dentists are facing charges as well as a group of

officials of the health insurance fund which deals with the medical expenses of public officials.

The alleged fraud consisted in highly exaggerated assertions by the dentists of the amount of work they were doing for members of the fund. Their statements of dentistry carried out were then approved by officials of the fund who, it is alleged, took a share of the unearned payments which they were

After the arrest of the first dentist, Sebastiano Musumeci Carbone, a month ago, the archives of the fund were mysteriously set on fire and the ensuing damage has to some extent limited the inquiry, but officials state that they have

sufficient evidence to proceed against the men already charged and the case may still be enlarged to include as many as 40 others.

The inquiry sprang from the alimony claim of the arrested dentist's former wife. In exchange for agreeing to a divorce, she asked for a much larger alimony payment, saying, apparently, that he could afford to pay her 2m lire a month (£1,400) given that he earned "about 200m lire a month from the fund of the public officials alone".

The court ordered him to pay half of what the wife asked for, but at the same time a discreet inquiry was opened into the fund's affairs.

## Budget being pruned again

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Dec 3

Backed by a summit exhortation to economize on future Community spending, EEC ministers tonight began to prune the 1976 draft Budget for the second time this year.

The latest draft, amounting to about 7,920 million units of account (about £3,300m), which emerged from the European Parliament last month, was expected to be trimmed by some £150m to within about £40m of the £3,110m originally adopted by the ministers.

After today's second reading by the ministers, the draft will go back to the European Parliament in a fortnight's time for final adoption.

Tonight's deliberations focused on the Social Fund, research projects and aid for developing countries.

The British, represented by Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, were hoping that much of the £40m likely to remain of the parliament's suggested increases will be used to finance research and aid Commonwealth developing countries. The Italians and Irish wanted any extra funds to be allocated to the Social Fund.

Both the West Germans and the British, whose heads of government were most active at the Rome summit in calling for improved budgetary controls, were particularly cost-conscious.

## Coat of arms for Britain's EEC passport

From David Cross

Brussels, Dec 3

The European passport which will be introduced gradually from the beginning of 1978 to replace the variety of national passports now in use will be burgundy red in colour and will probably have a soft cover.

The new uniform document was given the formal seal of approval by heads of Government of the Nine at their summit meeting in Rome yesterday. Its colour and cover will not be the only changes for the holder of the present dark blue, hardback British passport. In a concession to its partners, the British Government is expected to agree that the cover should feature the title "European Community" above the coun-

try's name, rather than below as the British and Danes had wanted originally. Thus, in the case of Britain, the title would read "European Community, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

In other respects, the European passport will not be greatly different from the present British version. The British coat of arms will still be displayed prominently on the cover, references to "Her Britannic Majesty" inside will probably remain untouched, and the document will still be 32 pages long.

This retention of traditional characteristics, which will also be reflected in the European passports of other member states, is possible because the

document will remain essentially a national document. It will, for example, still be issued by member states to their own nationals because of the practical and political difficulties of persuading the Nine to delegate this responsibility to a central Community issuing office in the near future.

Some other technical aspects of the passport still have to be worked out by the experts. The trickiest is likely to be the problem of which language or languages to use for most of the contents. Most member states are in favour of using a maximum of two languages—their own, plus either French or English. However, the West Germans are pressing for all six Community languages

### ADVERTISEMENT

## IRAQI JEWS INVITED TO RETURN HOME TO IRAQ

The Revolution Command Council (RCC) in Iraq has adopted a resolution which entitles all Iraqi Jews who left Iraq since 1948 to return home to Iraq and enjoy equal rights with all Iraqi citizens. The resolution also stipulates that the Iraqi Government shall guarantee to the returning Jews full constitutional rights and a secure life free from any sort of discrimination.

This decision by the RCC stems from the adherence, by the

Iraqi Government, to the principles of Human Rights, the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is a fact of history that Jews lived among the Arabs in harmony, throughout the ages. History abounds with examples of Arab-Jewish co-operation which flourished in a prevailing atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.

THE RESOLUTION, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT AHMED HASSAN AL-BAKR IN HIS CAPACITY AS RCC CHAIRMAN, READS AS FOLLOWS:

"PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARA. A ARTICLE 42 OF THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION, IN KEEPING WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND BY VIRTUE OF IRAQ'S ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR IN THE UN CHARTER AND THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL, IN ITS MEETING OF 26 NOVEMBER 1975, ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

1. IRAQI JEWS WHO LEFT IRAQ SINCE 1948 ARE HEREBY ENTITLED TO RETURN HOME.
2. ALL IRAQI JEWS RETURNING TO IRAQ UNDER THIS RESOLUTION SHALL ENJOY ALL LAWFUL RIGHTS OF IRAQI CITIZENS UNDER LAW.
3. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT SHALL GUARANTEE TO THE RETURNING JEWS FULL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ENJOYED BY IRAQI CITIZENS. THIS WILL INCLUDE EQUALITY AND A SECURE LIFE FREE FROM ANY SORT OF DISCRIMINATION.
4. THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE AND SHALL BE ENFORCED BY THE MINISTERS CONCERNED."

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ



## If you've never given to a charity before...

It could be for all sorts of good reasons. Such as, you've never had any money to spare. Or no-one ever helped you. Or charity begins at home. Or perhaps you've never been asked.

Well, Barnardo's is asking you right now. And if charity begins at home, then our home probably needs it even more than yours. Unless, of course, you happen to be helping well over 7000 children a year. Mostly handicapped, maladjusted, orphaned or deserted. And all of them coming to you because no-one else can help them.

But as we're Britain's largest child care charity, we can be pretty confident that no-one has problems like our problems. It cost us nearly £6 million last year to run all our homes, schools and services. This year it's going to cost much more.

It's because you've never given to a charity before that we're asking you now. We can no longer struggle on without your help.

A donation or, better still, a Deed of Covenant, is all we ask. Everyone has a first time for giving to charity and, with a little luck, it could become a habit.

We can't give unless you do.

**Barnardo's**  
Britain's largest child care charity.

Enclose a donation of £1 □ £2 □ £5 □ £10 □ £20 □ £50 □  
I would like to know more about Barnardo's. □ (tick box)  
I would like to know how I can help Barnardo's. □ (tick box)  
Please send: PO payable to Dr. Barnardo's.

NAME   
ADDRESS

Post to: Dr. Barnardo's, Dept. TV 157,  
Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG.



## WEST EUROPE

### Civil Guard kill ETA suspect in Bilbao

Front, Harry Debelius

Madrid, Dec 3

Civil Guards today shot dead an alleged member of the ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) in Basque, an industrial suburb of Bilbao.

Senior Luis Javier López de Guereño, aged 38, was killed in a fight involving three suspected Basque separatists and members of the Civil Guard.

The other two men escaped. The police said that they had been searching for the men for several days and had tracked them down to a part of Basque where they were ordered to surrender.

It was the first clash between ETA and police resulting in a death since General Franco became ill last October, and it was the first such killing in the reign of King Juan Carlos. The ETA and the Marxist FRAP (Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Popular Front), the two principal anti-regime violent groups, have been quiet for most of the past six weeks. Many members of both organisations are in prison, arrested under the anti-terrorist decree of August 27.

The mayor of a town near San Sebastián was shot dead in his home while watching television 10 days ago, and according to some reports the ETA claimed responsibility.

Senior Torcuato Fernández-Miranda, was sworn in this morning as the new president of the Cortes, the Spanish parliament. With that vacancy filled, an announcement can be expected, possibly by the end of the week, about whether the king intends to replace Señor Arias as Prime Minister.

The appointment of the president was today dismissed by Señor Felipe González, secretary-general of the outlawed Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), as showing a "tendency towards a continuation of Francoism".

Señor González spoke at a secret news conference called by members of a Dutch Socialist delegation just before they left after spending five days on a fact-finding trip to Spain.

zations are in prison, arrested under the anti-terrorist decree of August 27.

The mayor of a town near San Sebastián was shot dead in his home while watching television 10 days ago, and according to some reports the ETA claimed responsibility.

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### W Germany drops ban on talking to taxi-drivers

From Dan van der Vat

Boon, Dec 3

The West German authorities capitulated to public opinion today by rescinding a law which banned conversation with taxi-drivers.

A meeting of transport ministers of the 10 Länder and West Berlin, as well as Federal Transport Ministry officials, agreed to cancel the legislative order imposed in the summer.

Drivers were also forbidden to smoke on duty, switch on their car radios and carry intoxicated passengers.

The imposition of the order, which was in reality a gathering of odd pieces of legislation going back in some cases more than a century and hitherto ignored, aroused a storm of ridicule, abuse and criticism.

People concerned with road safety condemned a law which actually obliged people to drive after drinking because they could not take a taxi.

The owner of a taxi concern in Munich has lodged a complaint, not yet heard, at the Federal Constitutional Court against the order, on the ground that it interfered with the personal freedom of drivers and passengers.

The Bill is expected to be signed into law by President Ford when he returns from China next week.

Passage of the Bill will not assure the swift availability of government money to New York City, as the city's specific loan requests will have to be voted by the appropriations committees of the Congress.

Delays over the appropriations seem likely, but New York officials state that once the recent legislation is signed, the city's financial situation will improve. The city's cash needs are expected to be met.

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The letter was signed "Committee of Greeks and Greek Americans to prevent their country and fatherland from being subverted to the uses of the CIA". It denounced the CIA for wrecking democratic freedoms and promised to expose its "evil work" in Greece in subsequent reports.

The revelations caused some embarrassment in the United States Embassy, since most of the identified persons were of its diplomatic staff.

The embassy declined all comment. Today foreign correspondents in Athens received copies of another anonymous letter, this time signed by the "Committee to keep Greece Greek".

It listed 10 Soviet diplomats, business representatives, and journalists, claiming that they were members of the KGB.

The letter, which gave names, cover, addresses, and telephone numbers, urged Greeks to keep a watch on those persons whose tasks was to direct the activities of local communists.

"If the KGB succeeds in its efforts," it added, "in 15 years our youth will be ideologically indoctrinated."

The KGB's Greek station, it added, was responsible for communist infiltration in the Greek press and the trade unions.

## OVERSEAS

### Intelligence services hit back at congress critics as general dismisses Vietnam war allegations

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Dec 3

The American intelligence community launched a counter-attack on its enemies in Congress today over its performance in Vietnam.

General Daniel Graham, a former head of the Defence Intelligence Agency, told a Congressional committee that the American high command had not been surprised by the Tet offensive of 1968 or by the numbers of Vietnamese communists involved, and said that there had been no attempt to cover up the alleged failure.

Earlier this year, a former intelligence officer told the House intelligence committee that intelligence estimates in 1966 and 1967 suggesting that there were far more enemy troops than the official figure had been suppressed so that the high command could claim that it was winning the war.

General Graham said that a wide spread of estimates was available and that he himself thought some of the numbers generally accepted, which went up to 500,000, were too high.

He denied that the numbers put out on the eve of the 1968 Tet offensive were misleading. They put the number of combat troops at less than 300,000 and the general remarked that in fact the communists used about 170,000 men in the offensive.

General Graham resigned from the Defence Intelligence Agency a month ago in protest against the dismissals of Mr James Schlesinger as Defence Secretary and Mr William Colby as director of the CIA. He put up a strong case today and the House Committee failed to bring any compromise admission from him.

The Senate committee on intelligence, which is now examining the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was told that Mr Robert Kennedy, when Attorney General from 1961 to 1964, authorized wire-taps on the telephones of

two reporters and four government employees, as well as on that of Dr Martin Luther King.

The taps on reporters and officials, like those used later in the Nixon Administration, were designed to stop leaks of news. The taps on Dr King were ordered at the insistence of Mr J. Edgar Hoover, then director of the FBI, who believed Dr King was falling under the influence of communists.

That has been known for some time. The news that Mr Kennedy also bugged reporters is new and, as the committee counsel pointed out, those taps were probably the precedents Mr Nixon had in mind.

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### Minister 'threatened voters in Nazareth'

From Moshe Brillman

Tel Aviv, Dec 3

The Nazareth elections committee, which is controlled today by the Knesset Speaker in Jerusalem, to lift the parliamentary immunity of the Minister of Labour so that he could be prosecuted for "intimidating voters and abuse of powers".

The Galilee town, inhabited by nearly 40,000 Arabs, is to elect a mayor and 16 members of the municipal council on Tuesday. The Communists have tested today that Mr Yehoram, the Minister of Labour, had warned voters on Monday that the Government would make a harsh view if the Communist candidate, Mr Ismail Zayad, was elected. He said the state of Israel could not be expected "to show consideration to a city headed by a man who may be an agent of Arab or of Palestinian gangs".

Arab communists, who are more nationalistic than the Zionists, have gained strength since the Yom Kippur war, seeming to be a wave of Palestinian nationalism. Before the war the party had polled approximately 10 per cent in Nazareth in parliamentary elections. In the national elections after the war, they polled nearly 60 per cent in the city.

Mr Zayad, a Communist Member of Parliament, backed in the city elections by a list called the Nazareth Democratic Front, made up of communists but including intellectuals, merchants and students who describe themselves as independent. Mr Zayad's rivals are candidates affiliated with a Labour Alignment and a Jewish National Religious Front. If no candidate polls 50 per cent of the vote next week, there will be a repeat contest a fortnight later between the two top runners. The municipal council will be chosen on a basis of proportional representation.

Mr Yehoram, an agent on Mr Zayad's list, described himself as an independent, said in an interview that the Nazareth Democratic Front was concerned only with promoting the welfare of the city and would deal with political matters. He claimed that the Democratic Front posters, which appeared in the town, had been planted by Labour provocateurs.

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### Passage of New York Bill assured

From Our United States

Economics Correspondent

Washington, Dec 3

President Ford's Bill to rescue New York from bankruptcy is now speeding through Congress and seems assured of becoming law before the city runs out of cash on December 11.

The Bill centres on a provision enabling the Federal Government to give New York short-term loans totalling \$2,300m (£1,150m). It was narrowly passed by the House of Representatives last night and debate on it began in the Senate today. An early motion to postpone the debate was defeated by a vote of 57 to 23.

Other attempts by Conservatives to delay final action on the Bill will be made, but after today's vote it seems improbable that they will succeed.

The Bill is expected to be signed into law by President Ford when he returns from China next week.

Passage of the Bill will not assure the swift availability of government money to New York City, as the city's specific loan requests will have to be voted by the appropriations committees of the Congress.

Delays over the appropriations seem likely, but New York officials state that once the recent legislation is signed, the city's financial situation will improve. The city's cash needs are expected to be met.

The secret war between American and Russian spies in Greece, usually waged with discretion at diplomatic cocktail parties in Athens, has burst into the open: an anonymous letter published in a local English-language newspaper last week listed what it described as the seven leading agents of the Central Intelligence Agency in Greece—complete with background, cover, address, and telephone number.

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"If the KGB succeeds in its efforts," it added, "in 15 years our youth will be ideologically indoctrinated."



## OVERSEAS



Betty Ford taking part with gusto in a Peking ballet class yesterday.

## ao-Ford talks of unprecedented length seen as good omen

David Bonavia  
Dec 3  
President Ford today had a significant talk on a wide range of international issues with Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the Chinese deputy Prime Minister, an American spokesman here.

Ford and Mr Teng met at the official guest house for two and a half hours this morning. Dr Kissinger also took part in the talks.

The afternoon session of the talks focused on the permanent agricultural situation.

Details of President Ford's visit to the Chinese or the other side. However, the issue is still believed to be a differing view between the two countries on detente.

It is also thought to have

dominated last night's meeting between President Ford and several senior members of his delegation with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and leading Chinese officials—a meeting of a length and seriousness apparently unprecedented in recent years.

Reports of the meeting suggest that Chairman Mao's health has shown some improvement lately.

Peking, Dec 3.—Mr Ron Nessen, the presidential spokesman, announced today that there would be no communiqué at the end of President Ford's five-day visit. But he emphasized that signs from the meetings between Mr Ford and the Chinese leaders had been good.

The decision not to issue a communiqué had been made jointly by Dr Kissinger and Mr Chiao Kuan-hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Nessen said.

The talks in 1972 between

President Nixon and Mr Chou En-lai, the Chinese Prime Minister, wound up with a lengthy communiqué signed in Shanghai which outlined future Chinese-American relations.

The President's 18-year-old daughter, Susan, missed a private banquet given by Mr Teng in the Great Hall tonight and a gymnastic performance afterwards. "She was just plain tired", Mr Nessen said.

The banquet was an unusual gesture by Mr Teng. The menu included boiled mutton in Mongolian style, cooked in a flaming pot, mustard greens with mixed chicken and mushrooms, pastries, fruits and lotus-seed porridge.—AP.

Jakarta, Dec 3.—Workmen with pots of white paint were today sprucing the palm-fringed route that President Ford will take from the airport to President Suharto's palace in the centre of Jakarta when he visits Indonesia on Friday.

## Republic declared as Laos King abdicates

By Bruce Palling  
Bangkok, Dec 3  
King Savang Vatthana of Laos has abdicated and the Provisional Government of Prince Souvanna Phouma has resumed power, officials stated today.

The abdication follows a week of organized demonstrations in Vientiane and elsewhere in Laos against the monarchy, which was established in the fourteenth century.

According to Thai Interior Ministry officials, 12 members and relatives of the Laotian royal family have fled to Thailand in the past week. The indications are that they were assisted by the pro-communist Pathet Lao in their departure.

According to the broadsheet "Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos" has been created after a two-day Peoples Congress in Vientiane.

There was no immediate indication whether anybody had been named as head of state to replace the former King, aged 68, who has reigned since the death of his father, King Sisavang Vong in 1959.

The Pathet Lao have been in effective control of Laos since last May, when the exodus of royalists and former neutralist officials to Thailand began.

The announcement today specifically referred to the abolition of both the provisional coalition Government headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma and the Joint National Political Council, headed by his half-brother, Prince Souphanouvong, the Pathet Lao leader.

The council was composed of equal numbers of leftists, rightists and nominal neutralists and was supposed to replace the

former right-wing-dominated National Assembly and to guide the provisional government towards national elections due next April.

It is unclear what will happen to the King or the rest of the royal family. Earlier this week, Western diplomatic sources in Vientiane reported that the Pathet Lao had removed the palace guard from Luang Prabang.

It is also uncertain whether the royal family or Prince Souvanna will be allowed to remain in Laos. Prince Souvanna has said in the past that he wanted to remain head of government until the country was reunified after its civil war, when he would retire.

Vientiane, Dec 3.—Unofficial sources said the former King had already left the royal palace at Luang Prabang to stay at his summer residence.

The former King was much loved by his three million subjects and it was noted that although the mass media here proclaimed the dissolution of the "old corrupt regime", there were no attacks on either the King or the Crown.

The sources said the former King might become supreme adviser to the republic, while Prince Vong Savang, his son, would probably become head of state.

Prince Souvanna Phouma and Prince Souphanouvong would probably be chosen as advisers to the Government and the new People's Assembly.

Details of the new administration are expected to be announced tomorrow.—Reuter.

Leading article, page 15

## Satellite 'first' for China

Peking, Dec 3.—The official Chinese press today gave from page prominence to the news of the return to Earth of China's fourth satellite. The report appeared under photographs of yesterday's meeting between President Ford and Chairman Mao.

The satellite, which was launched on November 26, landed yesterday. It is the first time that Chinese scientists

have succeeded in bringing a satellite back to Earth. China has not yet disclosed any details about the satellite or its purpose.

The latest Chinese experiment is seen by observers as an attempt by China to break the ballistic missile monopoly of the superpowers. The launching of satellites requires powerful rockets which could be used for military purposes.

## viet hint grain catastrophe

Hanoi, Dec 3.—A senior Government official indicated today that the 1975 Soviet grain purchase totalled only 137,000 tonnes, the lowest for years and nearly 80 million below the plan.

Grigori Vashchenko, head of the planning and statistics commission of the Soviet Union, said that the annual grain production over the past five years per cent above the mean level of 1966 to 1970, allowing this against output for the last nine years.

Western observers decried a production figure for 1975 of 137.2 million

major grain-growing of the Soviet Union affected by drought during summer, but Western had been predicting production would fall, at least, to some 20 million above what Mr Vashchenko indicated was the actual

Vashchenko's report to the session of the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia*, first concrete indicator of the extent of the harvest.

## ained Britons deportation

Buenos Aires, Dec 3.—A businessman and his wife, arrested 10 days ago for alleged involvement in attempts to subvert the Government, appealed to be allowed to leave the country.

Mr Bernard Kelly, the Consul said.

Richard Whitecross, aged 40, of Braintree, Essex, and his wife had asked to leave a regulation allowing arrested during a state of emergency to opt for deportation.

## r Whitlam 'involved' in loans

Michael Leapman  
London, Dec 3  
The loan was to have come from Arab oil sources and was being negotiated through Mr Tahir Khemlani, a London dealer.

Today's allegation involves Mr Frank Stewart, former Minister for Tourism, who was, in May, vice-president of the Executive Council. The article in *The Bulletin* reports that, six days after Mr Connor's resignation, Mr Stewart made a long telephone call to the Governor-General. In it, he is alleged to have said that Mr Connor had been entitled to believe that he still had Mr Whitlam's approval for pursuing negotiations with Mr Khemlani even after the formal revocation of his authority to do so.

Mr Whitlam is alleged to have told Mr Connor after the May meeting that the search for an Arab loan was not necessarily over. The formal revocation of authority was necessary to comply with the conditions of a large loan being negotiated with the United States. But exploratory discussions with other potential lenders could continue informally.

Mr Stewart is reported to have told Sir John Kerr about this as a matter of conscience. He is a candidate at this election, though there had been

## Britain denies cajoling Russian to defect

By Diana Geddes  
The Foreign Office firmly denied yesterday Soviet allegations that a Russian folk dancer, posing with an Armenian troupe in Britain last month, was "bribe up, threatened, cajoled or in any way pressurized" in an attempt to force him to defect to the West.

The dancer, Mr Suren Arutyunyan, aged 25, had asked for permission to stay in Britain while his application for an emigration visa to the United States was being considered. The Foreign Office said. He later changed his mind of his own free will and returned to the Soviet Union on November 13th.

An article appeared yesterday in the Soviet weekly *Literary Gazette*, which is regarded as authoritative, alleging that Mr Arutyunyan was kidnapped by Home Office officials at Heathrow airport on November 7, when he stayed behind to check that all the luggage of his troupe from the Armenian Railway Workers' Palace of Culture had been taken from their bus.

According to the account, said to be based on an interview with Mr Arutyunyan, he was driven by the Home Office officials to the American Embassy where he was forced to sign an application for asylum in the United States.

He was then taken to a boarding house in London and given a sleeping draught. The next day he was taken to a house outside the city for a day-long interrogation and his passport was taken from him. But after four more days at the boarding house he managed to find his way to the Soviet Embassy and report what had happened.

According to the Foreign Office account, issued yesterday, Mr Arutyunyan was waiting with other members of his troupe for a flight back to Moscow in the pre-departure lounge of Heathrow on Friday, November 7, when he asked the leader of the group for permission to go to the lavatory. He then ran out, hid in a room and indicated, by showing the driver a card with "US Embassy" marked on it, that he wanted to be taken to the American Embassy.

The American Embassy confirmed yesterday that Mr Arutyunyan had arrived in the taxi, "completely voluntarily and by himself" and had completed an application form for an emigration visa to the United States. They had advised him to apply to the Home Office for an extension of his existing visa to remain temporarily in Britain, while his application was being processed.

Later that day he was picked up from the embassy by representatives of the British Council for Aid to Refugees.

On Monday, November 10, he was interviewed by Home Office officials and confirmed that he did not want to be interviewed by Soviet officials.

On November 13, the British Council for Aid to Refugees reported that Mr Arutyunyan had not returned to the hostel the night before and had disappeared. He later turned up at Heathrow with four officials of the Soviet Embassy and the manager and deputy manager of the Aeroflot office.

British immigration officials asked to exercise their right to interview Mr Arutyunyan in private, but the Soviet officials refused, the Foreign Office said. While these discussions were going on, Mr Arutyunyan "broke away from the group and jumped over a partition into the embarkation control area".

He was taken for an interview with a Russian-speaking immigration officer. After confirming that he did not wish to stay in England and had decided of his own free will to return to the Soviet Union, he was immediately allowed to board the Aeroflot flight to Moscow.

doubts whether he would stand. Mr Connor, who is also standing for reelection, would not comment on today's allegation.

The loans affair was among the reasons for the Liberal-Country coalition refusing to pass the Whitlam government's budget through the Senate. This led the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament and appoint Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Liberal leader, as caretaker Prime Minister.

Mr Whitlam's opponents have long claimed that he was more involved in the affair than he admits. But they have never been able to produce firm evidence. Today's allegation remains fairly nebulous, but it is being seized with delight by Mr Fraser and his allies. Mr Fraser said: "I have always believed that Mr Connor was acting with Mr Whitlam's authority. This has now been confirmed."

Sydney, Dec 3.—Mr Whitlam turned on the Australian press today and accused proprietors of a "monolithic gang-up" against him.

He said in a radio interview that the press was waging an anti-Labour campaign and had neglected to criticize economically irresponsible election pledges by Mr Fraser. He accused the newspaper chain controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch of showing bias in its election coverage.—Reuter.

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Ernest Smith President  
National Federation of Building Trades Employers





PARLIAMENT, December 3, 1975

## Impact of rail cuts on travelling public

House of Commons

MR MOATE (Faversham, C) asked what would be the effect on the travelling public of the proposed cuts in rail services.

MR GILBERT (Dunfermline, Lab) said that the Government's proposals to cut rail services would be a disaster for the travelling public.

MR MOATE—These proposals would cause major inconvenience to the public and will have a minimal effect on British Rail's losses. It is not a serious unsatisfactory position when proposals such as these can be carried through with little or no opposition.

Will he try to get the cuts deferred until a more adequate consultation has taken place in an endeavour to get an overall strategy for British Rail?

MR GILBERT—The board is discussing these cuts with the unions involved and has reached an agreement on measures designed to avoid any compulsory redundancies. The board is also considering the best commercial judgment to make reductions in their services so that they will impose the least inconvenience on their passengers.

An overall review of transport strategy and policy is being prepared in the department. The Government has better wait until that is published.

MR SPEARING (Newham, South, Lab)—The Minister has mentioned the importance of passengers. What studies have been made to see what proportion of the expected travellers by the trains that will be cancelled are regular commuters or not travel at all? Would it not be possible to do so, so that the effect on the travelling public can be assessed?

MR GILBERT—The inconvenience to the public will not be as much as he surmises. Most of the cuts are falling on those services where the demand is relatively low over peak services. On some of these half the trains are unoccupied.

I can see some inconvenience but a lot of the cuts in services will have little impact on the public's actual travel needs.

MR FOX (Shirley, C)—When will the White Paper be published?

MR GILBERT—We are not yet committed to publishing a White Paper but we expect to publish the results of the study.

MR MCILLAN (Glasgow, Central, Lab)—At this moment of time development of the railways is more important than ever. On December 16 thousands of railwaymen will be invading this House to tell us so.

MR GILBERT—I am well aware of the need to preserve as much as possible of the present network of services and the railway network. Clearly one has to take a view of the size of the railway network.

My concern is that the amount of money which Labour MPs would like to put into additional investment.

He added later that his scheduled meeting with Mr Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail, was on December 16.

MR HICKKILL (Newcastle, Lab)—The Minister has mentioned that all this discussion about the future level of services on British Railways is going ahead in isolation. Is it not a matter of the level of the motorway programme, etc?

Surely the Labour Party is pleading isolation in its policy where each transport need is discussed in isolation.

MR GILBERT—These matters are not discussed in isolation in my department. Mr Blackford is well aware of the need for fundamental research before a review can be brought forward.

A group in which he played a distinguished part has laid the foundation-stone for work now being done in Government. It is difficult for the Minister to give a precise date when the results of the review will be published.

**Rate rebates**

MR JOHN SILKIN, Minister for Planning and Local Government (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab), asked during question time whether he was satisfied with the rate level of rate rebates.

MR SILKIN—The lowest take-up (the added later) seems to be among private tenants and the rate level of rate rebates is being reviewed. I intend to see that publicity is directed to assist them.

## Government offer to buy British Oil's North Sea assets

House of Commons

MR BENN (Secretary of State for Energy, Bristol, South-East, Lab) said that the Government had offered to buy British Oil's North Sea assets.

MR BENN—The Government has offered to buy British Oil's North Sea assets. The offer is a significant step towards the nationalisation of the oil industry.

As the House will know, it was agreed that the Bank should guarantee the North American borrowing of British Oil.

The Government has therefore reviewed the situation with the company including its cash needs, in consultation with the Bank of England and the Bank of America.

It has been decided that the dollar borrowing guarantees should be renewed for a further nine months so as to give further time for the company to realize its United States assets at a satisfactory price.

In addition the Government has offered to purchase the whole or a substantial part of British Oil's North Sea oil assets.

The Board of British Oil has been negotiating on an arm's length basis. The Board of British Oil has been negotiating on an arm's length basis.

These discussions will necessarily take some time. They will be successfully concluded. Both parties are determined that the expected travellers by the trains that will be cancelled are regular commuters or not travel at all.

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## Reaction to Rome: Mr Maudling says P.M. has been trying to save Mr Callaghan's face

House of Commons

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On the stock market, the common agricultural policy the Government had worked to create an agricultural system more geared to efficient farming and the elimination of shortages and surpluses.

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## Shopping/John Groser

## Perfume or silk ties for him and her

General readers have asked me to write a "Christmas gift guide" for him and her. Well, if you have a few months, you will have a (I hope) that every man in your life, or as many as 49p for the housewife's eyes for you.

In case, like me, you are a wise shopper and have everything to the last here are a few ideas things you might want to in his stocking or her one. From Estée Lauder are some super little items, including the "male chauvinist" soap bar (their words, inc) which is 50p of that ant. hard-milled Aramis or £1.65.

Aurora ceramic apple (16) will keep her as long as it is alight the essence of this unique one. When the candle has out, the yellow, ceramic ner could take over as a sport candle in a very e white ceramic pear for ten there is the Alliage necklace (£6.50) which is a charm that hangs on a chain round her neck. Lauder products are ale almost everywhere.

votes of the Hermès of perfumes will already nmitted to giving a small of something. Apart from agrances, I think a quick to the new Hermès store, New Bond Street, London 9PA, to see their exten-range of gifts would be

## Sasha dolls



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Problem  
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s week we have turned up a a curse, a Swedish typist, a que here, a Christmas pui- g shaped like a cannon-ball, pumpkin pie, a cuckoo clock, a dog, a piano, a mender, a dog school (for motor-busists) well is countless (taxi- mers, heating engineers, car- ters, etc., etc.). Whatever clual problem we're faced a we've usually got a civilized practical solution. Problem THE problem solver, John hlem. Write for our leaflet to Vauxhall Drive Road, New SW1, or write.

01-828 8181

fun. Everyone has been knock- ing the new shop, saying it is but a poor imitation of Asprey's, Cartier's, Gucci's et al. Well, imitation is the best form of flattery and I can tell you that it is no use being poor if you go to any of these emporia.

● Fabergé announce that Aphrodisia for men and Wood- hue for men are the two fragrances with which they want you to zap your fellow this Christmas. Personally, I do not care for the smell of either, but then I am not trying to zap anyone. Both fragrances cost £6.50 for a 6oz bottle and they went on sale everywhere last Monday.

● Lesway, the distributors of those splendid Swiss Army pocket knives (as used on the recent Everest Expedition and ideal for getting *femmes fatales* out of heres' hooves and other scrapes) have come up with the Strongbox, a versatile opener which will remove the lid of any jar or container with a screw cap up to four inches in diameter.

The best of the knives (which has so many saddest I love count) costs £13.80 and the Strongbox £19.5. They should be widely available, but in case of difficulty contact Lesway, 49 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1JT (01-629 6780).

● My Diary is very cute. It is a diary with a difference: a facsimile of the sort given to a Victorian child it has drawings and captions for every day of the year. The entry for January 2, for example, states: "Robinson Crusoe caught a goat 1660." My Diary is published by Canongate Publishing Ltd, 17 Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh, but is widely available. I have seen them (price £2.25) at Mowbrays in London.

● If you still have not found the way to his heart, then we had better attack his stomach. There are some gourmet items which will fit well into his stocking that have been rounded up for me by the Foodfinders (I brought them to your attention on September 25).

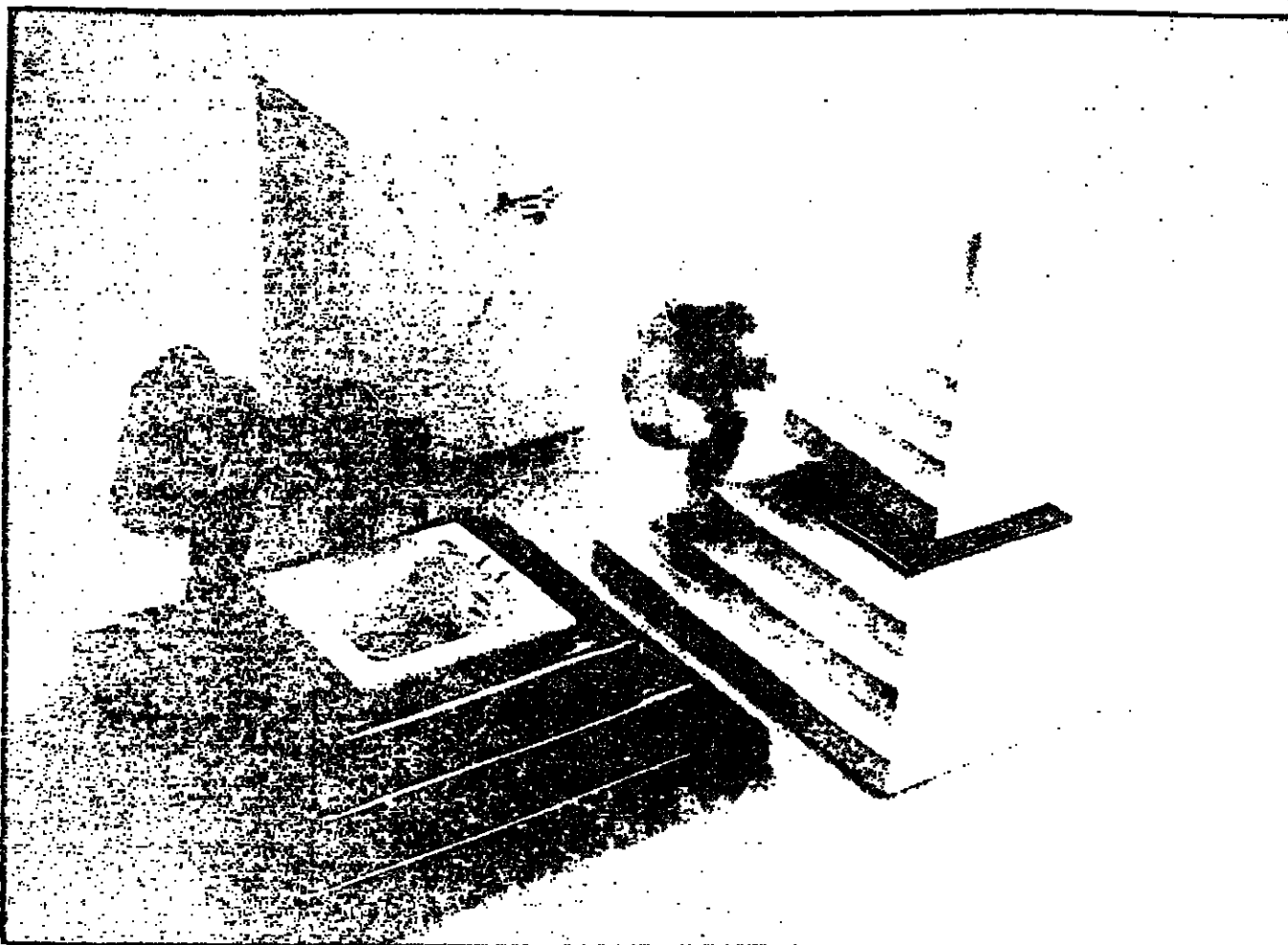
Available at good food stores everywhere and certainly at Harrods, Jacksons of Piccadilly and Fortnum and Mason, I commend to you the Dupar range of cooking wines in 25oz tins for only 20p each. The Buchettes d'Orange au Cognac by Breton cost £1.13 for an 8oz tin and are scrumptious—little logs of orange peel, soaked in cognac and then sugared.

Also from Breton are the Marrons Givres, which are even more delicious than marrons glacés and which cost £4.09 for an 8oz tin. The box itself is a handsome tapestry design in brown and beige and I think would be a most welcome gift.

Exploring the depths of Jacksons new game counter (run by Philip Tarlow, who was a chef before he joined the store) I discovered Patum Peperium in traditional stone jars. I thought that Elenham Quality Foods had stopped making gentleman's relish and I certainly took against it when they put it into those nasty, plastic pots.

But they are back with the good old stone jars and for Christmas (apart from the plain white jar with the black writing on it) there are some special 5oz jars with colour drawings of game on the lid. There are four themes—pheasant, hare, teal and grouse—and they cost £2.30 each.

● It may be a bit late for Christmas, but try the silk ties from Mary Tinker Designs, Glen Ross, Brynmor Road, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2JX (Aberystwyth 2673). They are wide and made of silk and are hand printed in 12 ancient designs based on Celtic artefacts. They look most unusual and tie extremely well. They cost £2.75. Mary Tinker Designs also offer cotton and rayon ties, similarly hand printed, at £1.15 and silk and terylene ones for £2.10.



● Oasis in Putney is a new company with an inventive awareness about the possibilities of using ceramics to be entertaining as well as functional. As you can see from the photograph, the pieces are highly amusing and they are functional if you dare use them.

The tree pyramid on the right of the photograph doubles as an ashtray and costs £25 in white, black or blue. The Pharaoh-like vase, with the aeroplane flying out of the side, comes in white, black, blue or green and is £20. The swimming pool (which is meant to be an ashtray but quite obviously is the sort of receptacle Philip Marlowe would have taken a gimlet

out of) is £30. The green of the gimlet makes it look terrific. Oasis is at 35 Felsham Road, Putney, London SW15 1AY (01-788 9392) from where the ceramics are available either to personal shoppers or by post. If Putney is too far away Oasis will let you have, on request, a list of selected stockists.

## A nightlight for all possible disasters



● These colourful (some would say lurid) nightlights really do seem to me to be a safe buy. Depending on the character depicted and method of operation (mains or battery) they cost between £4.99 and £6. Basil Brush and Uncle Bulgaria, along with their colleagues, are manufactured from and painted with completely neutral and non-toxic materials.

The sealed lighting unit (safe in the very worst nursery wetting disaster) has been submitted to the British Standards Institution where it has undergone anti-shatter, high humidity, over-voltage, double construction and safety tests.

The lamp switched on beside a child's bed safe in the knowledge that should the infant drag his favourite Wombie into bed with him, there is no danger of child or bed-clothes being damaged. On the mains model, the cable should of course be checked regularly for chafing.

The lamp burns approximately one unit of electricity every 70 hours. The bulb, which is easily replaceable, is a 6.3 volt, 15 amp cycle bulb. The nightlights are manufactured by Northlight Productions Ltd, Northlight Works, Melbourne Street, Farsley, Pudsey, Yorkshire, LS28 5BT.

## Keeping your gas bill down

● It is a great pity that more attention has not been given to the National Gas Consumers' Council campaign (launched last week) which is designed to mitigate the effects of rising fuel costs in the home this winter. The theme of the campaign is "Down With Gas Bills".

A free leaflet, available from the NGCC at Estate House, 130 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y

4UL, as well as from your local gas consumers' council, contains helpful hints for consumers so that they can get the best use out of gas. There are to be local radio tapes with hints on how the consumer can keep down the gas bills and there will be a national newspaper competition for the best "save gas" suggestion.

The NGCC believes that there are certain specific ways of avoiding "a winter of discontent". These include improving the means of identifying cases of genuine hardship among gas consumers before gas boards

take the drastic step of cutting off supply. By increasing the awareness of easy payment schemes for gas bills and by simplifying existing gas tariff and price structures, it is hoped that the consumer can be helped to plan for the winter.

In addition, there is a scheme from British Gas to enable consumers in many parts of the country to buy "gas gift tokens" this Christmas. The tokens will be available in Scottish, Northern, South Western, Wales, West Midlands, East Midlands, Eastern and Southern regions of British

Gas. Discussions are taking place for the scheme to be introduced in the remaining four regions.

Then there are savings stamps, which have been in use in four of the regions for some time, which are in units of 50p. They are available from gas showrooms in the regions operating the schemes. Savings stamps and gift tokens are just two of the ways for the consumer to spread the cost of bills more evenly throughout the winter. Budget billing facilities are available in all 12 regions already.

● You will not be surprised to hear that almost every press release that has landed on my desk in the past month has started: "For the man in your life who has everything, this Christmas..." No man in anyone's life has everything; because the ultimate thing, which has only just been produced, is a small pamphlet published by the Havana Cigar Information Centre, which tells you all about cigars.

Havana cigars are the only luxury I allow myself these days (well, the you-know-who counts more as a consumer durable) and I was amazed to read in this definitive little pamphlet things I really never knew. It is available from the HCIC, 35 Dover Street, London, W1—the cigars themselves will have to be purchased from one of the many reputable dealers all round the country, names available from the centre.

The Associated Havana Cigar Shippers have set up this information centre to provide the consumer with accurate and up-to-date information about Havana cigars. This follows the lifting of the quota arrangements previously in operation, which means that more cigars will now be available in this country and in larger quantities (though, sadly, not at lower prices).

As Kerts ought to have said (and I rather suspect Groucho Marx did) "a Havana cigar is a joy forever". The pamphlet tells you about the life of a cigar, the do's and don'ts of smoking—crucial things like "should you take the band off?" Answer: no, not if it will tear the wrapper. So those of us who have been black-balled for smoking with the band on can feel instantly white-balled again.

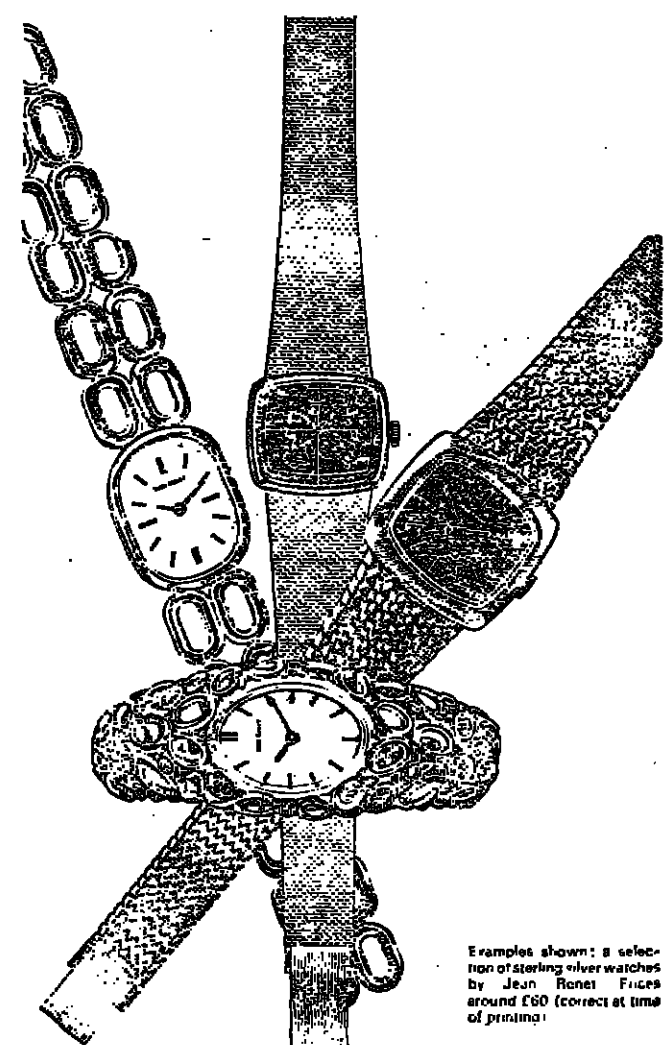
Cigars are relatively expensive, but then so are taxis, wine and everything else that is remotely enjoyable during Mr Wilson's third innings. They deserve care and attention. The new centre will be able to advise those of us who do not know as much as we should (and the many who think they do) how to get the most pleasure out of Havana cigars.

● Now for the most important Christmas stockings of all, the children's. If you really are stuck for ideas in these last, frantic days before the Festive Season, try The Owl and the Pussy-Cat at 11 Flask Walk, Hampstead, London, NW3. They have a finger puppet theatre which the kids can colour and build, as well as the words of a play. There are four, felt finger puppets in each set which costs £2.00. They will post and pack for an extra 33p, but what with the Christmas posts I am sure postal shopping is not wise at this stage of the year.

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat also have the best executive toy I have seen in ages. It is a brightly coloured, plastic "fiddling toy" meant for babies of nine months and over to suck, chew, twist and gurgly over. It has helped preserve my

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## Carpets for playing on

● Games People Play is "fun carpeting" from America. It is not cheap (£9.63 a square metre—the games kit is an additional £2.50) but once laid is very resistant to wear and soil and is easy to clean. Children can play hop-scotch, checkers and many other games on this carpeting which is designed as a play area island to be surrounded by plain carpet.

Samples can be seen at Affa Carpets, 81 Baker Street, London, W1M 1AT (01-935 0414), from whom explanatory leaflets showing patterns and possible layouts are available.

Play carpets manufactured in this country (and priced right at the other end of the market) can be ordered from Anne Marie Home Products, Bremar House, 27 Sala Place, London, W.2. They cost £5.50 inclusive of postage.

Two colourful designs are available—a street plan, with signs, bus stops and so on and a doll's house layout. The carpets are of non toxic, machine washable, non-woven fibre and measure 5ft by 3ft.



## GOING METRIC—THE METRE

## All you need to know about the metre

The metre is one of the basic metric measurements. It's just over 39 inches (39.37 inches, to be a bit more exact). As Britain progressively goes metric, more and more things in the shops are being sold by the metre. You've probably noticed some already; fabrics for instance. So you may find it useful to know how long a metre is.

Here is a rhyme to help you remember:

A metre measures three foot three  
It's longer than a yard, you see

The Metrication Board 22 Kingsway, London WC2E 6LE

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## Barnes last but by no means least with 65

also carried a front page picture. The article said a police raid on the Olympic headquarters in Montreal on November 25 disclosed "one of the worst pre-Olympic scandals" and touched off a series of rumours, including one about shifting the Games to Mexico City. Mexico City hosted the 1968



## BOOKS

## A future for the past

The Gulag Archipelago: Volume Two

By Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Translated by Thomas P. Whitney  
(Collins: Harvill, £4.95)

The camps are not merely the "dark side" of our post-revolutionary life. Their scale made them not an aspect, not just a side, but very nearly the very heart of the country. It was rare for our half-century so to manifest itself so consistently, with such finality.

The Gulag Archipelago, one of the truly incomparable books of our time, has been described as the greatest single shock sustained by the Soviet Union since Khrushchev's speech at the Twentieth Party Congress in 1956. The first volume, comprising the first and second parts of Solzhenitsyn's seven-part "experiment in literary investigation", combined personal case-histories with the methods and machinery of Stalin's terror-state, in particular those relating to interrogation, arrest and the movement of human prisoners within and across the country. Volume Two—the third and fourth parts—widens its witness still further to a huge survey of the so-called Corrective Labour Camps themselves, from Lenin's revolution of 1917 (Stalin did not invent them), to roughly, the year 1959, by which time the effects of Khrushchev's speech had imposed the first significant check on Stalin's system.

Three pictures emerge from Gulag Two: of a savage, irrational and all-consuming cruelty of a battle-economy dependent for much of its progress on a free and inexhaustible supply of slave labour; of a state spawned by the State, poisoning its parent in return for bringing it to fearful and unwanted life.

Solzhenitsyn estimates that there were never less than 15 million Russians in the camps at any one time and the total number over the whole period must be around 66 million. He writes for them, most of all for those whose experience of the camps was so complete they never came out alive.

Gulag Two was written between 1966 and 1968, and, like its predecessor, is addressed first to the citizens of Soviet Russia and only secondarily to the rest of us. It presupposes a future audience of free-breathing compatriots. "Break with the lie!" remains his central call to action, the biggest lie of all being the wilful refusal to see class warfare and destruction in terms of individual men, women and children destroyed. The call is inadvertently muffled at times.

Do a similarity of paths in life and a similarity of situations give rise to a similarity in characters? As a general thing it doesn't. For people with strong minds and spirits of their own it does not.

While this kind of carelessness occurs rarely over the long span of 700 pages, it cannot be said that Thomas P. Whitney's American translation performs elegantly. The Russian original, which according to another of Solzhenitsyn's translators (Michael Glenny) is "written in an urgent, headlong, allusive vernacular riddled with slang, cryptic idioms and esoteric jargon" or that Whitney does more than set down doggedly the accumulations of Solzhenitsyn's enquiry. Some of the punctuation is virtually illiterate.

The accumulation of evidence without reference or access to conventional forms of documentation is the real "experiment" of this "literary investigation". (Does such documentation even exist? Did Stalin's servants proudly perpetuate their infamy like those of Hitler and Nixon? It seems unlikely.) We must accept the evidence of Solzhenitsyn's 227 witnesses for what it is worth even though most of it remains

oral and unattributed ("... the time has not yet come when I dare name them") because it may be all the inside evidence we are going to get, beyond a tiny handful of comparable memoirs, like Yevgeniya Ginzburg's *Journey into the Whirlwind*.

Solzhenitsyn is doing the work of A. J. Ayer. He is doing it not only for the dead and the silenced, but also for historians, poets, philosophers and novelists, and if he bears the burden with spiritual tenacity and physical courage he cannot be all these kinds of literary chronicler in equal imaginative strength. As a writer he is limited by some of the very qualities which make him tenacious and brave as a man; in English at least his moral fury becomes relentless and over-litigated, and his sarcasm is often crude. He does not entirely avoid sentimentality or repetition. There may be nuances of treatment here which Mr Whitney has not passed on, and we should not forget that *Gulag Two* is the middle floor of a three-storey structure whose final shape will not be clear until the publication of Parts V-VII in *Gulag Three* a year from now. Nevertheless, this home-made, home-grown book (Solzhenitsyn is scarcely edited at all in any sense that we understand editing. The narrative rambles, rushes, digresses and roars.)

It is full of marvellous true stories of suffering and survival: the officer allowed three days' reprieve from death to spend them with his free wife who never knew he was going to die; the boy who, alone of all the prisoners on Solovki, told the truth to the visiting Gorky, whereas the writer wept in sympathy and left him to be shot; the very funny tale of the bent window-glass and crumbling carafes; the column of zeks marched out to a sunny day's death in the tundra; family histories of sacrifice and betrayal; astonishing escapes and incredible journeys; and, one of the most moving of all, the seminar of approaching death, when a group of scholars in camp, with a few

days to live, decided to deliver their last lectures to each other:

*Father: Savely spoke of "unintentional death": a priest's academicism about paradise in the area of eternal fathers about something in the area of eternal dogmas and canonical writings: an electrical engineer on the principles of the energetics of the future; and a Leningrad economist on how the engineer on the principles of microphysics. From one session to the next, participants were missing—they were dropped in the morgue.*

What a subject for Pushkin, Gogol or Dostoevsky! Solzhenitsyn deliberately reminds us of his 19th century predecessors—Notes from the House of the Dead and Chekhov's account of the penal colony on Sakhalin (Is there no English translation of this?) but he tells most of his stories quite flatly and the superlatives he attracts have little to do with fomenting creative imagination.

There are just enough dramatic descriptions and resonant images in *The Gulag Archipelago* to make one wish there were many more and to see that this relative lack of synthesis was dictated as much by choice as by the perils of the censor. Facts came first, and the future use of facts is the key to the lasting importance of this book. Solzhenitsyn believes that the cultural tragedy of 20th-century Russia is that the camps of the Gulag Archipelago, in which all manner of people and sections of Russian society were forced together as never under the Tsarist autocracy, provided the unique opportunity for a great modern literature without allowing anyone of talent the smallest chance of taking it up.

The opportunity is not entirely lost. It is revived by this book. *Gulag* in English is certainly not great literature, and some of it is even a bit dull, but it preserves within its pages the inspiring raw material out of which a great literature can, and surely will, arise.

Michael Ratcliffe

## Masterly sprints

Selected Stories  
By Nadine Gordimer

(Cape £3.95)

Angels at the Ritz

By William Trevor

(Booley Head, £3.50)

If the novel is a marathon, the short story is a sprint. The novel is demanding of the writer because it is a test of endurance, the short story because there is no room for slack. Those are passing observations, not attempts at definition, for, as Nadine Gordimer writes in the penetrating introduction to her collection:

*Nobody has ever succeeded in defining the short story in a manner to satisfy all who write or read them.*

But she describes the essential differences carefully:

*A short story is a concept that the writer can hold "fully realized" in his imagination at one time. A novel is a concept that must be taken possession of stage by stage. It is impossible to contain all at once the proliferation of concepts it ultimately may use.*

Her introduction is valuable for its general insights into the short story form, and because it lends perspective to her own work, though it does not attempt to explain or excuse it.

William Trevor's characters exist only within the confines of their particular story. We have no sense of their past, though incidents from it may be mentioned, and certainly they have no future beyond the final paragraph. Nadine Gordimer's people take their places in her total world-picture; in the history, landscape, social, political and moral climate of twentieth-century South Africa.

Encountering them is like passing from one lighted carriage of a railway train to the next; the whole has moved towards us out of a past and will journey towards a future, but the attempt to imagine both past and future is frustrated, as it would be in Trevor's case.

Miss Gordimer has here arranged the stories, written over 30 years, in chronological order.

It may be true that in superficial senses the later stories are better; they are technically more accomplished, more subtle and more extended, richer and more complex. Yet it is not sensible to prefer the later stories for these reasons, for her significant qualities as

a writer have always there. What is important Miss Gordimer is her to emotional detachment from people she portrays. She writes, not as a preacher, but as a craftsman, and she does not set down stories at random. The stories are immensely varied. Some over political points, others illustrate the tensions and cities between husband and wife, masters and slaves, individuals and group, helplessness and the power, smell of Africa rises, as the pages.

It would not be to be very many excellent writers seem constrainedly pace comparison, and the the publishing calendar no influence one against William Trevor have long admired his was heavily influenced; stylistically, in my own career. At the end of an outstanding which confirms my belief he is better at the spirit the marathon. He has a his artistic and boundaries and now ing and exploring areas human heart from which once shied away. The and eccentricities (peculiar surnames) are there, but relegated to any importance. There is matter with less, although details are in his cutting-edge is now; pining away of surplus reach the bone-truth.

Mr Trevor's people are misfits, at odds with selves, their families and lives, and life-stories of the wedding and parents has a mother of he is understandably sad and is racked with because of it; a good Irish girl realizes the truth about her bridegroom their wedding, and parents, out of that knowledge come hope for their future middle-aged matron dancing in the afternoon; plain typist is seduced by office wolf and thereafter female boss. And the story, "Mrs Acland's Gb moved me to tears, with worthy of remark, because Trevor's world used to be comfortless one, and now it is some bolt-holes, touch compassion and understanding between people, the prospect of a little relief, release.

Susan I

## Sail away

Sailing  
By Edward Heath

(Sidgwick & Jackson, £5.50)

This book looks very much like an attempt to exploit our natural curiosity about a political leader whose interests, in music and sailing, have been used by his publicists to show that he is human after all. It is in effect a collection of short text wrapped around a large number of photographs, some of which are exciting and attractive, others rather dull, and the publishers have not failed to produce that usual irritation, to present different pages to their photographers.

The text starts with the winning of the 1969 Sydney-Hobart Race by the first *Morning Cloud*, an appetizer which shows that Mr Heath has

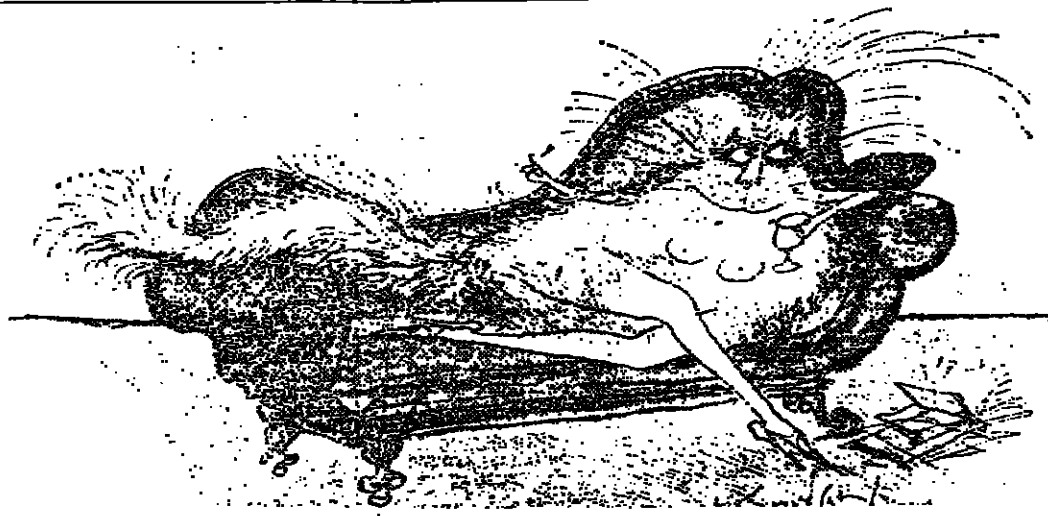
an easy style and a nice sense of humour. He then takes us back to 1966 when, having become Leader of the Opposition, he determined to take up a physical hobby for his mental and physical well-being and tells us how he came to choose sailing.

Two seasons of dinghy racing are rapidly disposed of and the purchase of the first *Morning Cloud* launches us upon the ocean racing scene. Mr Heath's extraordinary success in his first years becomes much more understandable when one discovers how many experts contributed to it, but he seems to underestimate his own part in bringing it all together. The remaining chapters chronicle the successes and failures of the subsequent *Morning Clouds* and we finish with a few pages in which Mr Heath tries to

explain what it is about sailing which makes it so worthwhile to him and closes with a plea for people to realize that refreshment of body and mind is an essential element in a full life.

As an autobiographical essay this is too restrained, and it is our other knowledge of Mr Heath and his situation which illuminates what he has written and reminds us to take seriously his comments on people and events. As a descriptive sailing book it fails by trying to cover too much ground in too few words. Ocean racing is difficult to write about but I feel that we need to be given much more detail of wind, tide, equipment and crew.

Nicolette Milnes  
Walker



Ronald Searle in superlative form: from *More Cats* (Dobson, £2.75)

## Underlying truths

Selfscape  
By John Mansfield

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.25)

Know Your Own

Personality  
By Hans Eysenck and

Glenn Wilson

(Temple Smith, £3)

Bodily Communication

By Michael Argyle

(Methuen, £8.50, and £3.90)

Formerly, when dinner-table conversation moved on to character-assassination the specialist vocabulary was borrowed from Freud and his successors: personality traits were analysed in terms of anal fixation and unresolved Oedipal conflicts. As the emphasis laid by psychoanalytic theory on early childhood became somewhat discredited (at least on this side of the Atlantic) the jargon was replaced by terms such as neuroticism and unstable extravert and the concepts of social psychology. Nowadays character is deduced from the signals decoded by research into non-verbal communication—NVC—which relies on clues from posture, dress, mannerisms and facial expressions to reveal the underlying truth.

The immediate appeal of these new sciences is understandable enough; most of us are persistently curious about our own character and the impression we make on the rest of the world. There is also a fascination about odd research findings such as the fact that crowd densities in a cinema lobby depend on the programme being shown: a space that can take only 100 people waiting to see *Ken Dodd* can accommodate 300 without protest when the film is *Tom Jones*. This example comes from *Selfscape*, a readable account by television producer John Mansfield of modern methods of personality assessment from external clues. He includes in his range not only the orthodox findings but research on non-verbal communication but also some of the pseudosciences such as palmistry and astrology. Perhaps by so doing he weakens the case for acceptance of any personality tests as serious research tools; yet their entertainment value should not be denied them.

Most surprisingly, the experts are a little touchy. Professor Eysenck and Dr Wilson are quick to dismiss as "journalistic playthings" the know-yourself quizzes that appear in glossy magazines and Sunday supplements, whose questions and interpreta-

tions are primarily designed to amuse. Years of testing and evaluation have gone into their own six detailed questionnaires in *Know Your Own Personality*, which occupy 140 pages and measure extraversion, emotional stability, toughness, sense of humour, and sexual, social and political attitudes. Several hours are needed to answer the 1,000 questions, and the answers are not the comforting rarely dull and interest is sustained. The book is a valuable guide to the science of personality, but it is not a book to be read to complete the task marks himself as slightly obsessive and introverted, but at the end he should have a clear idea of the way his personality compares with average.

Like personality testing, the science of non-verbal communication has potential as an intellectual pastime game, but it is also a serious branch of psychological research. The silent, note-taking member of the panel interviewing applicants for executive training is likely to be a NVC consultant watching for the thousands of clues to character revealed by the candidates' unconscious behaviour and appearance. Again John Mansfield's examples are striking. Robert Day's habit of "sleeping"—putting his fingers together to form a church steeple—during interviews apparently "indicates confidence, sometimes with a smug, pontifical, egotistical outlook." Anyone wanting more detail and an authoritative exposition will find it in Michael Argyle's *Bodily Communication*. He describes the recent rapid growth of the science as applied to both men and animals (several of the illustrations come from Jane van Lawick Goodall's wonderful studies of chimpanzees) and includes a thought-provoking section on cultural differences. Arabs, it seems, are very sensitive to NVC, partly because they engage in a lot of ritual. Much of their conversation consists of repetition of stereotyped phrases; gestures are very important; and they look each other in the eye more than do Europeans, stand closer together, and touch each other more often. Englishmen are trained to use and understand Arab signals get on with their work better, says Dr Argyle—an obvious advantage when there is competition for a contract.

Indeed all these social psychologists assume that society will be improved if more of us learn to understand and interpret their guides to character and behaviour. Yet Eysenck and Wilson admit that no particular personality pattern has obvious evolutionary advantages in the way that high intelligence has. Provided he is sane, what sort of personality should we look for in a potential prime minister, company chairman, or medical student? An unemployed, unemployed couple or even better suited to each other than those who relied on traditional random actors such as physical attraction?

Tony Smith

## Crime

Slight Mourning  
By Catherine Aird

(Collins, £2.75)

"Even today, when the cosy detective story has so nearly been smothered by a superfluity of sex and violence, there are new writers of the classical school. We have taken from *Best Detective* by Melvyn Barnes (Clive Bingley, £3), a guide-book of enviously economical summings-up spoilt only by its shortness. It should, for instance, have included Catherine Aird, a fine example of contemporary coolness whose newest book has plainly been written with uninhibited enjoyment and deserves to be read in the same spirit.

It offers in the old way a simple challenge to guess who killed a Calleshire squire and so cunningly are its force-manoeuvred that few are likely to outwit the author. But the surprise answer, as is the way of this genre, though altogether plausible in logic, is only moderately convincing. The people, though briskly characterized, do not in the end tell us anything. Were

they other than lively and varied stereotypes, done not quite so unerringly as Dame Agatha Christie's but of her sort, they would sink the ingenious plot with its well-worked-in points of law and subtleties of medicine and its necessary 12 pages of final explanation (some 22 fewer than Dorothy Sayers was apt to need).

As background we have such relics of immemorial village life as our pulling times afford, a whiff of table-lappling precedence, a dash of lectionary use, some garden learning. The detective, too, is somewhat modernized, an inspector we have met before, really more a detective, for having round his neck a constable, a nativity verging on the incredible, though painted with plenty of jolly humour. But the last essential ingredient is present: a abundance of loss of lovely quotations and lashings of miscellaneous lore. With these in the bag, the cosy Thirties' tec rides triumphantly on.

Slowly the Poison, by June Drummond (Collins, £3), Mystery deaths in England and South Africa in 1911, setting rich with vivid details, story shot through with deep romance. Highly recommended. *Coppers Don't Cry*, by John Wainwright (Macmillan, £2.95).

Northern city police fight protection racketeers, and each other. Iron-clanking meditation on *homo homini lupus* theme, bustling with spiky opinions. Truly collaring tale.

Travelling Horseman, by Nicholas Luard (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £3.50). Faction (beastly word and meekly beastly genre) account of genesis of Black September, impressively full of information vigorously recounted. Meat-and-drink to aficionados.

Hooky and the Crook of Gold, by Laurence Meynell (Macmillan, £2.95). Hooky (sterling soul), con-gil and quarter-millionaire. All the customary angustura-tinged nous but with added late-flowering romance. His best yet.

Bloody Marvellous, by Julian Rathbone (Michael Joseph, £2.75). Schoolmaster hush smug-glers' Spanish adventures (somewhat conventional) but good coolly adult writing: but worth savouring and the background is a truthful bonus.

The Edinburgh Exercise, by Angus Ross (John Long, £3.25). Festival provides cover for infighting terrorists. Sardonic British agents take joyfully into action in whirlwind start, middle and finish.

H. R. F. Keating

## The Office of Prime Minister

Lord Blake

Two and a half centuries of constitutional history are illuminated in these essays, in which Lord Blake discusses the relations between the Prime Minister, the Crown, the Cabinet, and both Houses of Parliament. The book falls into three parts: a review of the men who have been Prime Minister, the development of the office from Walpole's tenure to the later nineteenth century, and a discussion of the changes that have taken place in the office of Prime Minister in modern times. £3 Published for the British Academy

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## Like against like

When Money Dies

The Nightmare of the Weimar Collapse

By Adam Ferguson

(William Kimber, £5.25)

History may not repeat itself; but there are cautionary tales. Anyone going through Adam Ferguson's enormously readable narrative of the Weimar years in Germany after the first war without being struck in paragraph after paragraph and chapter after chapter by the relevance of such a chronicle of folly and terrible misfortune to our own times must have the kind of mind that can only see differences never similarities.

Not for nothing did Dr Henry Kissinger say in Pittsburgh last month, looking forward to the Ramboulet summit: "The European experience in the 1920s and 1930s teaches us the crucial relationship between economic vitality and the health of political institutions, and global stability. Then, inflation and depression tore the fabric of democratic societies. . . . In some countries the confidence of people in free institutions eroded; the habits of accommodation that bind societies together gave way to extremism and mounting civil strife. Strains within nations spawned economic nationalism; increased tension between nations led to war."

"Similar economic problems, if of a lesser magnitude, have assailed almost the entire industrialized world in the last few years. . . . The deepest consequence is not economic but the erosion of people's confidence in their society's future and a resulting loss of faith in democratic means."

"Now, inflation aggravated every evil, ruined every chance of national revival or individual success, and eventually produced precisely the conditions in which extremists of right and left could raise the mob against the state, set class against class, race against race, family against family, husband against wife, trade against trade, town against country. . . . Parly because of its unfairly discriminatory nature it brought out the worst in everybody."

"In German minds democracy and republicanism had become so associated with financial, social and political disorder as to render any alternatives preferable when disorder threatened again."

"The conflicting objectives of avoiding unemployment and avoiding insolvency ceased at last to conflict for Germany had both. The longer the delay the more savage the cure after inflation had reached a certain advanced stage, financial and economic disaster seems to have been a prerequisite of recovery."

"What really broke Germany was the constant taking of the soft political option in respect of money. . . . That the Government and the Reichsbank were dominated by the notion that a huge 'passive' balance of payments made constant devaluation inevitable hardly

seems sufficient explanation for the total, blind refusal to meet the money supply—Lord D'Abernon (at the Embassy) wrote even in 1921: 'Knowledge of currency law, particularly of the quantitative theory—is incredibly absent all German circles'; or, as Branson-Turner (the great contemporary historian of Weimar's inflation) noted, 'budgeting deficits of Reich's states alike were considered writers and politicians' 'not cause, but the consequence of the external depreciation of mark'."

In other words, those who the Gods would destroy, first make ignorant of money theory, then make them the Prime Minister, well well to put copies of Ferguson's fascinating book beside every bed at the next time that our political industrial leaders do there.

Peter

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## Cubit civil engineering site in cash crisis

**By: Malcolm Brown**

A leading British construction company may have to close its civil engineering division if an extraordinary cash-raising operation does not bear fruit within the next few days.

Drake & Cubitt Holdings said yesterday that it had become involved in a series of circumstances almost wholly beyond its control which was undermining the financial base of its civil engineering division.

Details were disclosed in this week's edition of the magazine *Building*, published tomorrow.

Mr Antony Hannen, chairman of Drake & Cubitt said yesterday that the crisis had arisen from a "series of unfortunate circumstances" which had led to a contract in Twickenham for the Greater London Council.

The company had been using a continental system of falsework—a framework supporting the concrete for a bridge to be placed—in its designs for the elevated section of the road.

After bridge collapses in 1972 in Koblenz, Germany, Pasadena, California and in England, in which the falsework concrete was placed in its design, a major factor in the design, Drake & Cubitt decided that it would be prudent to redesign its falsework on the A305 contract.

Redesign put the falsework back on the drawing board, and added an estimated 53.7m to the original 66m cost of the contract. Drake & Cubitt argues that this doubling in cost was largely because of the enormous increase in the rate of inflation during the period in which the contract was overrun its original completion date.

The company, it appears, hoped that it would receive an ex-gratia payment from the GLC, because the redesign had been approved by the council, believing it would be irresponsible to carry on with the original falsework.

It was agreed within the company that Drake & Cubitt would be paid for their extra cost, but that the GLC should be asked to contribute about £3m.

But the A305 contract was arranged on a fixed price basis and the company had to agree to make the hoped-for lump sum payment. Mr Hannon said: "I thought that they had however offered to back the claim, but if Drake & Cubitt approached the Department of the Environment for financial aid. An approach was made in August.

The department in its turn, according to Mr Hannon, expressed regret that it could not help directly with financial aid, but was prepared to back the company in a concerted operation of collecting outstanding claims from other public sector authorities. The theory was that a speedy collection of money due to Drake & Cubitt in claims would ease the cash flow position.

Mr Hannon said that the claims operation was getting a good response, but it was too early yet to say whether it would be sufficient. The company expected to know by the end of this year.

"What we will have to do if we don't get any assistance is to close the civil engineering company. The civil engineer- ing side of the company has a £5.7m loss", Mr Hannon said.

could justify an normal commercial grounds, with the end result of paying the distributor the pipeline and conferring the sales advantage on the exporters, including importers.

Both Ford and Vauxhall say they have made significant investments and reorganized their operations, bringing their plants on a strong home market where growth has to be won competitively.

The provision of any subsidy to them, therefore, would confer unfair advantages to that company without any assurance that there will be sufficient demand for its cars.

When the Central Policy Review Staff makes forecasts and its main argument of the need for rationalization in the interest of efficient output.

\_\_\_\_\_

that a takeover of Innocenti would not prejudice its own capital investment programme creating new jobs.

A statement by the Metalworkers Federation said the Fiat proposal "could represent a serious mutation, even if various aspects need to be clarified and set out in detail".

During the reconversion period the unions recommended that agreement should be reached with British Leyland to continue assembling Minis.

**customers to**

**abroad**

—even with the imports from Europe—bound to provoke more concern.

No details are available of the additional tonnages which may now be brought in from European producers—or from other sources—safely, on the fact that it may happen can only worsen the corporation's relationship with the work force which has already been asked to cooperate in accepting further large cutbacks.

In the first six months of the current financial year, the ESC lost £125m and the forecast for the full year is that these losses could exceed £350m.

Labour disputes are the main reason for the ESC's move to overseas suppliers.

**US importers complain, page 18**

5

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## Forecasters see modest 1976 upturn

All forecasting units are agreed that 1976 will see a slow recovery in the British economy. But the revival will be very modest and some forecasters believe that output will be almost static.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research published its latest forecast last month, updating its previous forecast in August. The Institute is now more pessimistic about output than before, predicting a 0.3 per cent recovery in gross domestic product compared to 1.2 per cent in August.

But its inflation forecast, at 10 per cent, is lower than the 14.1 per cent envisaged in August.

Other forecasts are little changed, with Hoare & Co. Govett still the only forecasters expecting a current account payments surplus next year.

## US 'unfairly restricting' steel imports

From Frank Von Washington, Dec 3

United States steel manufacturers are mounting the widest-ranging campaign seen in a quarter of a century to protect the American market from imported steel products, according to Mr Seymour Graubard, legal counsel of the American Institute for Importers Steel.

The campaign is taking place as American manufacturers are striving to raise prices on the home market, where demand is falling.

Mr Graubard maintains that steel imports are the sole safeguard against rising prices, but that the manufacturers, led by the United States Steel Corporation, are now initiating a series of potentially damaging legal actions, coupled with widespread advertising, to restrict the volume of imports sharply.

The institute's legal counsel argued at a press conference that this year's Trade Reform Act opened new avenues for the steel producers to obtain increased protection.

But the action of the steel manufacturers is just one of several major problems facing importers.

Mr Alex Grotin, president of the institute, said production costs in Europe were now as high as in the United States, and to compete effectively in this market the European producers ran the risk of taking actual losses of as much as \$50 million.

These losses were not acceptable.

## FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	NIESR (Nov)	LES (Aug)	Year 1976/Year 1975 (Nov)	H & G (Nov)	P & D (Dec)	1st half 1976/2nd half 1975 Treasury (Apr)	NIESR (Nov)
Consumption	-1.6	-1.7	-0.4	-1.5	-0.3	1.7	-0.7
Private investment inc	-4.0	1.9	-3.6	-5.1	-0.2	-3.8	-1.5
housebuilding	0.4	-4.5	-2.4	0.3	-1.7	5.1	0.5
Public investment inc	2.2	2.5	-1.4	2.2	2.8	3.7	1.6
housebuilding	1.7	3.5	2.8	5.9	3.8	10.0	4.7
Public authorities consumption	2.7	0.2	3.2	2.4	3.6	5.9	2.7
Exports	-172	-119	90	-127	20	-200	-282
Imports	0.3	1.4	-0.1	0.7	1.4	2.5	1.3
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	10.0	15.4	16.4	14.2	15.5	—	11.9
Inflation forecast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Balance of payments—current account	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
deficit (£m) Year 1976	2509	1121	1400	-166	1600	—	2636

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research  
LES London Business School  
H & G Henley Centre  
P & D Hoare & Co. Govett, as provided by data STREAM  
H & G Phillips & Drew

A forecasts are in constant prices, seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the first half 1976/second half 1975 section are forecasts for the first half of 1976 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is 1970 prices.

Y forecasts by the Treasury, the NIESR and LES are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H. H. & G. and P. & D. assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources. The forecasts by H. H. & G. and P. & D. are not completely comparable but differences are minor. Differences in results also reflect differences in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets.

The Treasury published its forecasts with the Financial Statement and Budget Report, which usually appears once a year. NIESR and LES revise their forecasts every quarter. H. H. & G. and P. & D. revise their forecasts every month.

## Neddy call to gear up for economic recovery

By Peter Hill Industrial Correspondent

Senior Government ministers yesterday came under further pressure from both trade union and management leaders to ensure that British industry was strongly placed to take quick advantage of the expected upturn in world economic activity next year.

At the monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council, attended by the Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey, and Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, trade union leaders stressed that the Government could jeopardize cooperation from the shop floor in its new industrial strategy if unemployment levels continued to rise.

Sir Ronald MacIntosh, director general of the National

Economic Development Office, said both sides had expressed concern that action should be taken now rather than later. The CBI representatives had been concerned about industrial confidence and the need to stimulate investment.

But, while both sides had been at pains to stress the need for positive steps, it was clear that yesterday's meeting, the first since the Chequers summit to discuss the Government's approach to industrial policy, had achieved little.

However, there was agreement that, while the United Kingdom economy had been the last to enter a recessionary phase and therefore might be the last to recover, it was important that industry should be able to take advantage of improved trading conditions.

## Trade Board drive aims to boost exports 10pc

An export campaign which British Overseas Trade Board officials hope will result in an increase of at least 10 per cent in the sales of many of Britain's leading exporters was launched in Sheffield yesterday.

The campaign, which is being accompanied by royal visits to exporting companies, continues in Bristol next week and will eventually cover most areas of the country. Sir Frederick Cotterwood, chairman of the BOTB said:

Increased export earnings for Britain could bridge the

£2,000m balance of payments gap, he said, as well as reducing unemployment and bringing the prospect of higher industrial wages.

Britain was now a "poor" country in European terms but the "very competitive" pound, expanding export markets, and low EEC tariffs were in favour of exports.

Today more than 250 South Yorkshire executives, representing about 80 companies, will study from five of the region's top exporters.

## Arab boycott admission by Leyland

By Malcolm Brown

The Anti-Arab Boycott Co-ordination Committee, a group of Jewish businessmen who have joined forces to fight the Arab boycott of Israel, yesterday claimed that British Leyland was now taking a firm stand against the boycott.

It released the text of a letter from Mr Alex Park, chief executive of British Leyland, to Mr Greville Janner, MP, in which Mr Park states: "I can assure you quite categorically that we do in fact supply the Israel market with vehicles and we do have an ongoing distribution network there, both for cars and for commercial vehicles."

Mr Janner, in a statement, said that Mr Park's letter represented a "clear, unequivocal, absolute and categorical assurance that British Leyland is not submitting to the Arab boycott."

British Leyland, which has been trying to get off the blacklist so that it can operate freely in Arab countries, was clearly embarrassed last night at the interpretation put by Mr Janner on Mr Park's words.

A spokesman for Leyland said that nothing Leyland was doing was contrary to the boycott rules. The company believed that the supply of vehicles did not in any way breach the boycott regulations.

Shell chemicals prices

Shell is to apply to the Price Commission for permission to increase its charges for chemical products. The company said the increase was necessary to meet the latest oil price increase.

## More data soon on equity deals

The Stock Exchange yesterday disclosed plans to expand the flow of information on equity market turnover at present available to the general public and the investment community.

From next February the Exchange intends to publish its monthly trading statistics for the equity market under the separate sector headings used in the daily Financial Times Activities Index. The revised format will show the number of bargains and their value for each of the main groupings in the index.

The figures will be taken from the computer at the Central Checking Service in London and will therefore exclude, for the present, business transacted at the provincial units.

## Mr Shore picks inquiry team

Membership of the Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy, which has been set up to advise the Government on board representation in the private sector, was announced by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday.

Sir Alan Bullock, Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, will chair the committee. Its members are: Professor George Bain, director of the Industrial Relations Research Unit for the University of Warwick; Mr N. P. Biggs, chairman of Williams and Glen's Bank; Sir Jack Callard, a former chairman of ICI; Mr Bartlett Heath, chairman of Guest, Keen & Nettle; Mr C. J. Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs; Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union; Mr David Lea, secretary, economic department of the TUC; Mr John Methven, Director-General of Fair Trading; Professor K. W. Wedderburn, Cassel Professor of Commercial Law in the University of London (London School of Economics) and Mr N. S. Wilson, a solicitor.

The committee has been asked to report within 12 months.

## Multinationals cited on safety

Multinational companies were criticized yesterday for their poor performance in ensuring the safety of workers.

Mr James Hammer, Chief Inspector of Factories, presenting his annual report for 1974 said: "Companies which project a national image of enlightened and forward-looking management have units with standards of safety that the directors, if they knew about them, would be ashamed to let the public know."

For example, the report is given for genuine antiques (which is fine for the dealer and for those who can afford antiques) but it is not given for "junk" (which is not so fine for the dealer who has to charge 25 per cent VAT on the full value of a 50p second-hand electric iron). Antiques are, by

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Chrysler: time to face some 'realities'

From Mr John Davis

Sir, It is time that some realities were faced in the Chrysler problem:

1. Chrysler cars, like any others, will sell in the required quantity if priced at a level which is competitive.

2. The Chrysler company, like any other, will prosper, providing the net revenue from sales is at least 10 per cent greater than the sum total of all its expenses.

3. The fact that Chrysler UK has persistently made serious losses is a result of total expenses exceeding revenue year after year—despite which fact its employees at all levels have taken frequent increases in pay and on average take £300 pa per employee more than British Leyland employees.

4. The UK Chrysler company, like any other company, is bound to fail with present pay levels because employee remuneration is 109 per cent of the value added in production. This compares with 80 per cent for Ford UK and about 90 per cent for BLMC and Vauxhall.

5. The Chrysler company can in the short term become prosperous once more and employees jobs be saved in one of two ways only:

(a) by the Government providing taxpayers' money—most of whom earn

less than Chrysler employees—to maintain Chrysler employees at the level of remuneration to which they have become accustomed or

(b) all Chrysler employees accept a reduced level of remuneration until such time as either they have improved productivity and/or improve designs which will provide a greater added value.

6. The average capital employed per employee in Chrysler UK is reported as £1,500. Since this is no more than the price of a popular new car, it would surely be within the financial capacity of car workers to acquire their own company from the present owners and work cooperatively within a common ownership structure to rebuild their own company into a profitable enterprise.

It would appear that a solution to the problem of jobs for Chrysler employees is entirely within their own grasp and there is no reason why they should be subsidized by people less well off than themselves—which includes many other car workers.

Yours truly,  
JOHN DAVIS,  
"Whorl Corner",  
10 Giffell Road,  
Russettfield,  
Bucks.

## Fairer distribution of VAT relief

From Mr Leslie J. P. Livens

Sir, The General Aviation Manufacturers' and Traders' Association's application to have the supply of used aircraft partially relieved from VAT (The Times, November 24, page 21) will, if successful, remove one anomaly from the VAT scene, but will not do much to correct the current inequitable situation that has been created by applying the second-hand goods relief selectively rather than generally.

For so long as the relief is made available only to those industries that can prove a distortion of trading patterns without it, the unrepresented sectors of the economy will be at a serious disadvantage.

For example, the relief is given for genuine antiques (which is fine for the dealer and for those who can afford antiques) but it is not given for "junk" (which is not so fine for the dealer who has to charge 25 per cent VAT on the full value of a 50p second-hand electric iron). Antiques are, by

their very nature, second-hand and they have a value (normally increasing) which is directly attributed to their age and scarcity—for these reasons it is quite possible to construct a cogent argument for having antiques treated as "new" goods. Surely then, if antiques are to be relieved, "junk" should likewise be treated.

Another example of the anomalies which exist is that second-hand marine engines are fully taxed, but if sold as part of a motor hull they will effectively be relieved.

There are many other anomalies which will be resolved only by reversing the present policy—i.e. by applying the relief generally and taking out of the scheme certain specified goods, trade or industries.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE J. P. LIVENS,  
Editor, *Comer's Reference Book for V.I.T.*,  
Crocker Publications Limited,  
1620, Cromwell Road,  
New Malden,  
Surrey, KT3 9L.  
November 28.

## Economists and the problems of Britain

From Mr G. E. J. Dennis  
Sir, Economists have in some months been under considerable fire for their supposed inability to agree on a programme to reduce the high rate of inflation in the United Kingdom. The criticism comes on top of the combined problems of balance of payments deficits, low growth and general poor economic performance in this country in much of the postwar period, may be opportune to attempt to put the record straight at this time.

The majority of real economists appreciate that the causes of the recent high inflation have been the excessive "go for growth" campaign of the early 1970s, the relaxation of the control on a banking system in 1972 and a huge American balance of payments deficits of the late 1960s all of which contributed to an excessive monetary growth in the early 1970s. Other factors such as the rise in import prices—in particular oil—are also "whipping boys" and appear to influence the rate of inflation, due to the expansionist demand in the economy. In practice, such cost-push factors are irrelevant to our recent experience of spiralling prices.

Likewise, the cure of inflation is clear and unequivocal. Expectations of inflation must be reduced and monetary growth cut back gradually towards a level of around 5 per cent. This is not happening at the present administration, but a piecemeal attempt to curb inflation as the recent £60 million limit can only succeed if expectations of inflation are reduced. Other aspects of policy such as the excessive government expenditure for example, The National Enterprise Board and Chrysler?, are illustrative of the primacy of the government's employment objective.

Economists can cure inflation given the chance. However, until the government places the cure of inflation as its major objective, prices will continue to rise and the pound flag. This severe conflict between full employment and inflation is not a price of the acceptance of any particular school of thought—it is the cost of a profligate and extravagant period at the start of this decade.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY E. J. DENNIS,  
Midland Bank Lecturer in Economics,  
Loughborough University Technology,  
Loughborough,  
Leicestershire, LE11 3TU.

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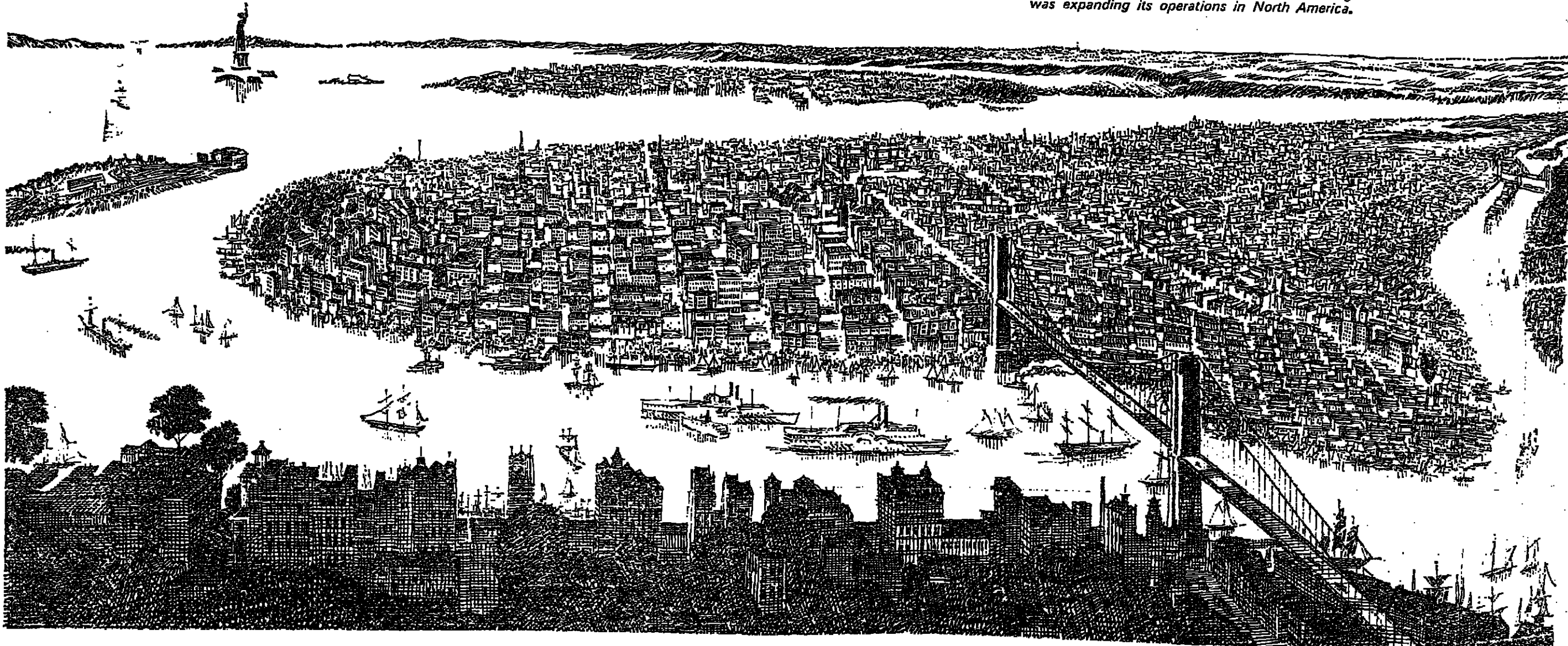
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR  
**Contrasting views  
on J. Lyons**



Mr. Brian Salmon, chairman of J. Lyons: still selling properties

relative strength on a prospective of around 14 and prospective yield of 2.9 per cent.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75)  
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**Armistage Shanks  
Some specific  
problems**

Interim results from Armistage Shanks provide welcome evidence that conditions in the house-building industry have stabilized, if not dramatically improved, in recent months.

Mr. Brian Salmon, chairman of J. Lyons: still selling properties

**W. H. Smith  
Christmas  
uncertainty**

In spite of ever earlier starts to the Christmas season, it remains as difficult as always to predict total Christmas spending until well into the final rush. To date, however, the retailers appear to have found no great encouragement in the way things are shaping up and, on this score, W. H. Smith is no exception.

**Phoenix Assurance  
Australian  
losses**

Century Insurance continues to be the drag on the Phoenix Assurance underwriting performance. Century's troubles appear to be mainly in Australia, where underwriting losses reached £1.2m in the first nine months, and the business there is being substantially curtailed.

**Erna's purchase**

The travel trade knows better than most how valuable a reliable name is and what it means in terms of customer loyalty. Erna Low has discovered—literally, to her cost—the value of her own name. She has just paid £15,000 for it.

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**Implanting an English heart  
in the Celtic breast**

"Financial arrangements lie at the heart of any scheme" of devolution to Scotland and Wales. So, rightly, says the Government's White Paper, *Our Changing Democracy* (Cmd 6348).

**Peter Jay  
Economics Editor**

sometimes violently demanding more and more local autonomy—those philosophers were regarded as mad betrayers of the universality of philosophy and probably dangerous as well.

**The Swiss foresee a long haul out of recession**

to have a more pronounced impact on the Swiss themselves.

**Chinese puzzle**

In between Peking duck, countless toasts to his hosts and chats with Mao and his colleagues, the President of the United States has every intention of studying next year's American budget while in Peking this week.

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**Implanting an English heart  
in the Celtic breast**

"Financial arrangements lie at the heart of any scheme" of devolution to Scotland and Wales. So, rightly, says the Government's White Paper, *Our Changing Democracy* (Cmd 6348).

**Peter Jay  
Economics Editor**

sometimes violently demanding more and more local autonomy—those philosophers were regarded as mad betrayers of the universality of philosophy and probably dangerous as well.

**The Swiss foresee a long haul out of recession**

to have a more pronounced impact on the Swiss themselves.

**Chinese puzzle**

In between Peking duck, countless toasts to his hosts and chats with Mao and his colleagues, the President of the United States has every intention of studying next year's American budget while in Peking this week.

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EDITOR

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Early gains cut back as Wall St opens

Equities enjoyed another good session yesterday. But pace of the market's advance began to falter at midday, and the early setback on Wall Street was taken as a reason to cut share prices back sharply in late dealings on the London market.

There was no rush to sell stock, however, and most of the leaders managed to hold on to net gains—although closing prices were well below the best levels.

The FT index touched 373.2 at noon, and seemed set fair to challenge the previous peak for this year. But by the end of the session, the gain in the index had been cut to 1.5, at 368.1. Turnover, by recorded bargains of 6,412, was lower.

Gilt again had a quiet day, although there was something of a revival of interest in "shorts". Activity was higher than earlier in the week and the undertone was stronger. "Long-

Street prices brought a swift reaction in London and the early gains promptly melted away.

For the longer-term outlook, there were still bulls among the stockbrokers. Wall Street had so far been largely ignored in London, but last night's predictions from across the Atlantic that the United States recovery may be postponed could undermine London's optimism.

Casualties of the late setback included EMI, which is not only a Wall Street-oriented share, but has also attracted a considerable speculative following in London.

Shares in EMI touched 237p at best, but ran back to close at 231p, a net 3p lower. Rank "A" closed unchanged at 160p after shedding an early gain and Bats at 323p, after 332p. Bowater (164p) and Reed International (237p) also reacted as United States market fell back.

Unilever, finally 4p up at 408p, had touched 413p, and Beecham (339p) had seen 343p. Shares in ICI closed steadily at 315p, a net 1p up after Tuesday's placing of 1.6m shares by Unilever, which put on 5p to 125p in response to the healthy addition to the cash flow.

The news that Iran is to pay £185m for and aircraft missiles from the British Aircraft Corporation helped shares in GEC (1p up at 141p after 143p) and in Vickers (1p up at 147p after 149p).

Other heavy engineers closed within a few pence of their overnight levels, after falling back from their best. The market took a long look at the interim statement from Swan Hunter, which postponed publication of the profit figures until the situation with Maritime Carriers becomes more clear.

Shares in Swan edged up to 551p, GKN (254p), Tube Investments (298p), Plessey (80p) and British Leyland (30p) had little to show for themselves by the end of the session.

On this pitch, much depends on today's trading statement from Pilkington Brothers, a major seller to the motor trade. At 272p, shares in Pilkington were a net 2p higher. One firm spot was Hawthorn Leslie, with the market hesitating by the narrowness of the Government's majority on the list of shipbuilding Nationalisation Bill.

On the shipping pitch, Furness Withy remained out of favour, with the City unsure now of the next move in the Eurocanadian Holdings situation. At 184p, Furness shares were 3p down. On the trampshipping side, there was fresh support for J. I. Jacobs.

Building shares joined in the initial advance, but looked uncertain by the end of the day. AP Cement (183p) and Taylor Woodrow (306p) retained minor gains, however. Armatage Shanks jumped 10p to 66p after turning in interim profits well above the market range.

Two major companies with trading reports due were added to the market's list of prospective rights-issue callers. Trafalgar House put on 2p to 1051p, and MEPC 3p to 66p for this reason.

The consumer section had another unhappy day, with trading figures from both W. H. Smith and J. Lyons both disappointing the City.

A fall in interim profits at J. Lyons went against the grain, and the "A" shares tumbled from 150p to 132p in minutes, to close a net 18p off.

A fair amount of selling from the disgruntled punters was reported. W. H. Smith dipped 2p to 360p, but had already fallen sharply earlier this week.

Hawker to take a third of Onan at the second attempt

By David Mott

The on-off affair between Hawker Siddeley and Studebaker Worthington over the Onan diesel engine company has finally been resolved. Hawker, soon to be stripped of its aircraft interests, has agreed to take a stake of about one-third worth £17m.

The move is a direct switch of investment from the de Havilland Aircraft Company of Canada sold to the Canadian Government for the same amount last year.

In July there was an agreement in principle under which Hawker was to buy a 60 per cent stake in Onan for £17m and tender for publicly-held shares. This would have led to a 50-50 ownership, but soon after the two said they could not agree.

Now that Hawker is keen to build up its non-aircraft side and cash in on the strong worldwide demand for all types of diesel engines, a similar agreement has been reached, save that Hawker only get one-third of Onan. Under the deal, Hawker will offer £32.50 (the same price as in the earlier deal) for each of 600,000 public shares and SW will sell up to 800,000 Onan shares to bring the holding up to 1.1m shares.

Another 47,500 will also be bought under stock options.

The deal means Hawker will have two representatives on the six-man Onan board, and also for the Peters subsidiary to provide Onan with diesel technology under licensing agreements.

Though to date a subsidiary company, Onan is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and produces a wide range of electric generator sets and controls for use in the power industry. Other interests include petrol engines. It will continue to be managed by the same people.

The Bill to nationalize the shipbuilding industry got a second reading in Parliament this week so the deal has come at a good time for Hawker. The group is thought to be thinking of further acquisitions in the electrical and mechanical engineering field.

The move left the shares unchanged at 320p.

Wagon Ind comes off the boil

By Tony May

Tough going and an industrial dispute which paralysed a leading subsidiary, from the pre-tax profits of £1,000,000 to £1,000,000. Even so, the dividend of 3p, turnover of £1.1m, the second quarter saw a sound year but holidays meant that quarter traded for less than weeks.

Net profits for the half went down from £1,000,000 to £482,000 while the dividend is £482,000, against £500,000. Even so, the dividend of 3p, turnover of £1.1m, the second quarter saw a sound year but holidays meant that quarter traded for less than weeks.

Mr C. Leslie Smith, chairman, says that the small price demand announced at the annual meeting in September will enable the group to make a profit for the year to nearly equal to the 1974 record of £2.2m. The company expects to pay a dividend of 3p, but at least a 3.1p adjusted for a 5p to 5.1p against 5.6p.

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Morgan-Grampian firmly on the mend

By Peter Elliott

Publishing and property group, Morgan-Grampian, has exceeded its own expectations at the half-way stage. After a 19 per cent decline in the second half last year to £588,000, the group has turned a £5,000 loss for the six months to September 30. Revenue rose 7 per cent to £9.7m. But as expected, the interim dividend is the most alluring sign of an increase to 1.60p against 1.44p.

After the 69 per cent decline in full profits last year, the group is in better shape to ride out recession in publishing property. But Mr Graham Storr, chief executive, said it still had a long way to go. He told Business News: "We are only now clawing back what we lost in inflation—higher costs, increased postage, etc. But I am confident we will be able to have done for two years. The current half is going well, and I think second half profits will be substantially better than the first half." He added that the group would aim for a year to get over cost increases.

Mr Storr said the full year's results will not match the 1974's £2.5m, but a long chalk. "But with the second

French company joining Mysen

The Mysen Group has been joined by a French company, Comptex, which has a 1.25m French francs (about £140,000).

CTC is one of the largest porters and distributors of heating and air conditioning equipment in France. CTC specializes in heating and air conditioning equipment in residential, commercial and industrial premises. The company's products and services are complementary to Mysen's. Comptex is a French subsidiary of Mysen, which already enjoys a substantial share of the French market for commercial and industrial ventilation products.

Combined sales of the two companies are expected to exceed 60m francs a year.

Smaller brewers prosper

The swing back to real ale and the summer are producing some interesting results from Britain's regional breweries. J. A. Devenish, the Weymouth brewer with interests in hotels and off-licences, reports pre-tax profits of £1.13m against £955,000 for the year ended September 30. Turnover was up from £8.5m to £10.2m. At the half-way stage the company's pre-tax profits were unchanged at £1,000,000, but it regularly makes 80 per cent of its profits in the second half. The shares firmed on the news.

At the six months to September 30, Mansfield Brewery, also in hotels, raised pre-tax profits from £910,000 to £931,000, despite a week-long shutdown earlier in the half year. The interim dividend is 1.84p against 1.36p. These figures follow last week's better profits from two other "provincials", Burton-on-Trent Brewery (Northwich) and Home Brewery (Doncaster). Today, the spotlight falls on Bass Charrington, big in lager, where full year profits of around £55m, against £49.4m, are expected.

Brit Dredging to fight petition

A petition for the winding-up of Pauls Federated Merchants, a subsidiary of British Dredging, has been filed by a minority shareholder. But British Dredging, which holds nearly 75 per cent of the shares, said it sees no merit in the petition. So it has instructed solicitors to oppose the move.

British Dredging's board says the petition is a reflection on the solvency of the company, which, it declares, is in "good financial order".

Alpine Drinks bubble merrily

The pre-tax profits of Alpine Soft Drinks jumped 53 per cent to £512,000 in the first half to September 27. Sales rose 18 per cent to £3.48m. The board says the price of sugar doubled in the six months, though it had declined from its peak earlier this year. Despite this and other cost increases margins held up.

It was the delivery of the year's rounds will exceed 300 and the directors are "confident that profits will show a satisfactory increase for the sixth successive year." The interim dividend rises from 2.68p to 3.08p. The shares hardened on the news.

Matthews Holdings

In view of acquisition of Dawson and Barfos, Matthews is to extend its accounting date to the 15th of January 1976. Matthews intends to declare a second interim of 2.11p gross for the 15 months.

Pres Steyn fire hdd under-estimated

Output from Anglo American Corporation's President Steyn gold mine was cut by 25 per cent to 10 per cent this week because the damage from fire which broke out in the shaft last August was not as feared.

At first the company hoped to work part of the mine by the end of December, but a resumption has now been put off until March. This will also hold up an increase in overall grade recovered by the mine, which is in the top range, medium-grade ore. Before yesterday's fire, the mine was producing 270 tons.

Record first half by Whitbread Inv

Pre-tax profits of Whitbread Investment, the investment trust, rose 40 per cent to £1,000,000 in the first half to September 27. Sales rose 18 per cent to £3.48m. The board says the price of sugar doubled in the six months, though it had declined from its peak earlier this year. Despite this and other cost increases margins held up.

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Slater, Walker stakes

Blundell-Permoglass Holdings announced yesterday that, as at November 14 last, Slater, Walker, its subsidiaries, unit trusts, and so on, held 900,000 ordinary shares in the company (14.13 per cent). This does not constitute a disclosure under the Companies Act.

York Trust also announced that as at November 21, Slater, Walker and its connections, held 480,000 ordinary shares in the trust (12.8 per cent). This too does not constitute a disclosure under the Companies Act.

Exports rescue machine tools

Judging by recent happenings, Britain's machine tool industry should be down, if not out. However, figures coming out of the industry do not appear to support the gloomy forecasts.

Indeed it is possible to discern a recovery in orders, indicating that the recession is bottoming out and bearing no resemblance to the severity of the 1971-1972 downturn.

The latest financial results from the sector come from the B. Elliott Group. There has been a substantial fall in pre-tax profits—in the region of a third—for the six months to the end of September, profits were still the second highest in the group's history after last year's record.

The machine tool industry has suffered, but the degree to which it was in danger appears to have been exaggerated, perhaps because of the focus of the country's best known firm in the sector—Alfred Herbert. In Elliott's case, volume during the six months declined, although external turnover showed a slight increase to £22.1m reflecting inflation. The order book was reduced from £20m in March to £17m in September, and is now, two months later, apparently at the same level.

Pre-tax profits fell from £2.02m to £1.36m. Traditionally the company takes a greater proportion of its profits in the second half, and there seems every possibility that this will remain the case, although the company itself is suggesting that it will only match the first half.

The industry as a whole is diverse in its activities—Elliott, for example, is strong in factorage. But there is at least one common underlying theme: exports. It is estimated that between 50 and 60 per cent of the industry's output goes overseas, which helps to smooth out the more violent fluctuations in the cyclical pattern.

The 600 Group, which produced its interim figures last week, has maintained its position in machine tools, particularly in export markets, while Elliott draws an important part of its earnings from South Africa. Staveley, which is due to report full year figures shortly, has also been heavily hit by a reasonably well both at home and abroad.

Undoubtedly, the experiences of the 1971/72 recession—and the resultant streamlining and a more market orientated approach—have made the industry better fitted to survive the present depression. It is arguable that the industry shrank too much and chopped off too much of the product range, but there does not appear to be such strong evidence to support the warning this week from Mr A. J. Sanders, director of production engineering at British Leyland Cars, that the industry was contracting to a "dangerous level".

Insurance embargo recinded

Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has revoked a requirement made on July 22, 1974, under Section 13 (1) of the Insurance Companies (Amendment) Act, 1972, stopping Shop and Warehouse Mutual Insurance Association Limited from taking on new business in Great Britain, or varying existing contracts.

Scots National Tst

For the time being Scottish National Trust Company plans to stay fully invested in anticipation of the "slow recovery in the United States economy spreading to the rest of the world," writes Mr Andrew Rintoul, chairman, in his review.

Overseas holdings in commodity shares have been raised while at home the company has "easily-markable holdings in financially-strong companies". In spite of reservations about Britain's prospects, equities are preferred to fixed-interest securities.

Border oil search

Oil Exploration, an Edinburgh-based company, has granted the fifth licence for oil and gas in the Loftholm and Loftholm regions. Last year 85,000 of oil were produced from based wells in Britain.

ROBERTSON DISTRIBUTION

Houston—Robertson Distribution Systems has been acquired by Fakhro Holding NV, a foreign company, with merger negotiations are conducted. Robertson expects a definitive agreement to be signed by the end of December. Fakhro is a Rotterdam-based company engaged in marine transportation. Robertson is involved in the marine of chemicals in the area. AP-Dow Jones.

Desmond Quigley

Mr R. W. Nicholson and Mr D. Fairbairn have been made directors of Shaw & Shaw. Mr R. L. Higgin has been made chairman of Sunlock Amia and associated companies. His successor as managing director is Mr B. W. Ofield, formerly director of marketing.

Mr A. E. Church has been appointed managing director of National Engineering Brokers' Association, has been invited to join the Committee on Invisible Exports. This is the first direct representation of Lloyd's Brokers on that committee.

Continued Progress

- Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Frank Webster, Year ended 30th June, 1975
- Pre-tax Profits exceed £1m for the first time.
  - Dividend increased for 8th successive year.
  - Cash resources very sound.
  - Belcon Industrial Estate now fully let and rent reviews start next year.
  - Group will be in a sound position to recommence growth when trading conditions improve.

We're in London to help oversee your overseas financing.

**DETROIT BANK & TRUST**

Commercial Union Building  
P.O. Box No. 151,  
St. Helens, 1 Undershaft  
London, EC3P 3ET, England  
Telephone: 01-283 4851

**S. CASKET (HOLDINGS) LTD.**  
(Clothing Manufacturers, Distributors and Retailers)

**SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

	1975	1974
Sales (net)	10,753,055	6,661,781
Trading profit	1,143,392	970,840
Net profit before tax	966,374	805,802
Dividends net	73,919	69,269
Earnings per share	9.83p	8.46p

Addressing the Annual General Meeting in Manchester the Chairman Mr. Philip Casket made the following points:—

- ★ Sales up by 61%.
- ★ Net profit before tax up by 12.5%.
- ★ Record for the 13th successive year.
- ★ Record result also forecast for first six months of current year.

**PRESIDENT STEYN GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

**UNDERGROUND FIRE**

Shareholders are referred to the company announcement published in the Press on 10th September, 1975, concerning the fire which broke out at the mine No. 4 shaft in August 1975.

It was originally hoped that access to the soiled-off area, above the level which would be reached before the end of October and that normal monthly production of 240,000 tons would be achieved in December 1975. This has not proved possible and it is now expected that access will be reached by the end of December, which means that the return to normal monthly production will be delayed until March 1976.

It is estimated that this will cause an overall production loss of some 270,000 tons during the efforts to increase output from the area of the mine which are not affected by the fire. Of the production loss, 68,000 tons relate to the past financial year.

John Hambro  
4th December, 1975.

Exports rescue machine tools

Judging by recent happenings, Britain's machine tool industry should be down, if not out. However, figures coming out of the industry do not appear to support the gloomy forecasts.

Indeed it is possible to discern a recovery in orders, indicating that the recession is bottoming out and bearing no resemblance to the severity of the 1971-1972 downturn.

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Business appointments

**NEB names director for North-west**

Mr Arthur Ward has been appointed by the National Enterprise Board as a director for the North-west.

Lord Nelson of Stafford, chairman of the General Electric Co., has been elected to the board of the International Nickel Co.

Mr I. J. James has been made marketing manager of Frisglitters. Mr R. W. Hill becomes commercial development manager, and Mr N. A. Church distribution manager.

Mr Roy Huxley is to become product director of EIR International. He is at present managing director of EIR.

Mr John Bays has joined the board of Chetnam and Gloucester Building Society.

Mr M. B. Phillips, managing

**ELECO HOLDINGS LIMITED**



[illegible]



# HIGH & DRY

Really Dry Gin



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 1. Dealings End, Dec 11. § Contrango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 23.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS			COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN			LOCAL AUTHORITIES			FOREIGN STOCKS			DOLLAR STOCKS			BANKS AND DISCOUNTS			BREWERS AND DISTILLERIES		
Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield
British Empire	100	4.5	Commonwealth	100	4.5	London	100	4.5	Anglo	100	4.5	Bank of America	100	4.5	Bank of England	100	4.5	Guinness	100	4.5
British Overseas	100	4.5	Foreign	100	4.5	Manchester	100	4.5	Barclays	100	4.5	Bank of India	100	4.5	Bank of China	100	4.5	Hebrew	100	4.5
British South Africa	100	4.5	India	100	4.5	Sheffield	100	4.5	Colonial	100	4.5	Bank of Japan	100	4.5	Bank of Australasia	100	4.5	Watson	100	4.5
British East Africa	100	4.5	China	100	4.5	Birmingham	100	4.5	Overland	100	4.5	Bank of New Zealand	100	4.5	Bank of South Africa	100	4.5	James Watson	100	4.5
British West Africa	100	4.5	Japan	100	4.5	Cardiff	100	4.5	South African	100	4.5	Bank of Ceylon	100	4.5	Bank of Egypt	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British Central Africa	100	4.5	United States	100	4.5	Leeds	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Persia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British North Africa	100	4.5	Canada	100	4.5	Nottingham	100	4.5	Goldfields	100	4.5	Bank of Turkey	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British South America	100	4.5	Argentina	100	4.5	Coventry	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Romania	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British West America	100	4.5	Chile	100	4.5	Derby	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Serbia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British East America	100	4.5	Peru	100	4.5	Sheffield	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British Central America	100	4.5	Ecuador	100	4.5	Leeds	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Serbia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British North America	100	4.5	Venezuela	100	4.5	Coventry	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British South America	100	4.5	Colombia	100	4.5	Derby	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Serbia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British West America	100	4.5	Guatemala	100	4.5	Sheffield	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British East America	100	4.5	Honduras	100	4.5	Leeds	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Serbia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British Central America	100	4.5	El Salvador	100	4.5	Coventry	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British North America	100	4.5	Nicaragua	100	4.5	Derby	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Serbia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British South America	100	4.5	Panama	100	4.5	Sheffield	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British West America	100	4.5	Costa Rica	100	4.5	Leeds	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Serbia	100	4.5	Bank of Greece	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
British East America	100	4.5	Dominican Republic	100	4.5	Coventry	100	4.5	De Beers	100	4.5	Bank of Bulgaria	100	4.5	Bank of Rumania	100	4.5	James Watson & Co.	100	4.5
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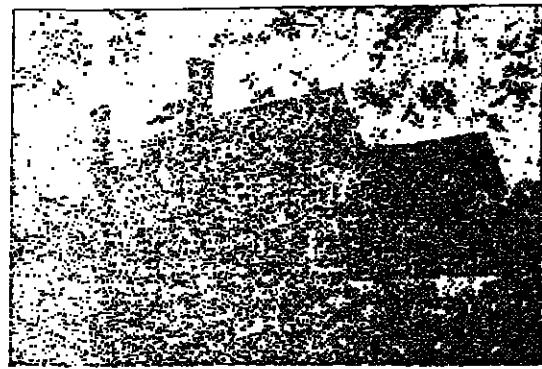
COUNTRY PROPERTIES

# Knight Frank & Rutley

20 Hanover Square London W1R 0AH Tel: 01-629 8171  
19 Broad Street Hereford Tel: 0432 3087  
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## ESSEX

Aspinning farmland.  
Close to 3 miles. Catcher 10 miles, both with good  
train services to Liverpool Street.  
AN HISTORIC MOATED AISLED HALL LISTED  
GRADE 1 DATING FROM THE 14TH CENTURY



Additional features: Lift, Great Hall. Attractive gardens  
enclosed by a moat on 3 sides.  
FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 1 1/2 ACRES  
(FURTHER LAND AVAILABLE)

Joint Agents: STAFFORD & SONS, Colchester (Tel: 0206 73105)  
and KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel: 01-629 8171)  
(10880/PSF)

## SUFFOLK

5 miles Lavenham. Easy reach Stowmarket.  
Burr St. Edmunds and Ipswich.  
A CONTEMPORARY HOUSE ON A MOATED ISLAND

Additional features: Split level sitting room/studio.  
Double glazing. Well stocked grounds.  
OFFERS INVITED 245,000, ABOUT 1 ACRE

Apply: LONDON OFFICE (Tel: 01-629 8171) (67225/TF)

## BERKSHIRE/HAMPSHIRE BORDER

Reading 7 miles, M4 5 1/2 miles.  
A RESTORED PERIOD HOUSE IN A SECLUDED  
POSITION ADJOINING THE RIVER BLACKWATER



Additional features: Swimming pool (disused), and  
large range of outbuildings. Paddock and orchard.  
OFFERS INVITED FOR THE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT  
7 1/2 ACRES

Apply: LONDON OFFICE (Tel: 01-629 8171) (67225/TF)

## SOMERSET

Bristol 12 miles.  
AN EARLY VICTORIAN HOUSE OF CONSIDERABLE  
ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST WITH PANORAMIC  
VIEWS OVERLOOKING CLEVEDON

Additional features: Heated plunge pool and sauna.  
Staff accommodation.  
FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 3 ACRES

Joint Agents: ALONZO DAVIES & HODDLE, Clevedon (Tel: 0272 21433)  
and KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel: 01-629 8171)  
(67225/TF)

## LONDON AND SUBURBAN

**HAMPSTEAD NW6.** View today this recently converted  
period flat with large recep., bedroom, k. and b., hup.  
C.H., own 30ft garden. Lease 96 years. Low outgoings.  
First offer of £12,750 secures.  
**HAMPSTEAD, N.W.6.** Sunny 2nd floor flat in quiet road.  
2 beds, recep., kit. & bath. Use of garden. Lease 80  
years. £16,950. Inspection advised.  
**REGENTS PARK, N.W.1.** High up in popular block opposite Park.  
2 good beds, large recep., fitted kitchen and bath. Full C.H.  
L.H., porters, etc. Lease 62 years. £29,950.  
**HAMPSTEAD NW6.** Charming modern house on two floors  
situated in quiet cul-de-sac close local transport to the  
station. Three beds, double recep., well-fitted kitchen,  
garage, central heating, patio. Freehold. £49,000. Inspec-  
tion advised.  
**ST JOHN'S WOOD NW8.** Period property in popular road.  
This accommodation could comprise four/5 beds. Three  
reception, kitchen and two bath. Freehold. £49,000. Inspec-  
tion advised.  
**HAMPSTEAD NW3.** Substantial house ideal Ambassador.  
set on high ground but easy walking to main bus. Large  
four reception, large kitchen, large main bed, large  
kitchen, 3 bath, full central heating, garage, garden.  
Freehold. £140,000.

**BRITTON POOLE & BURNS**  
2 Wellington Rd., N.W.3. 722 1166

## T MASKELL & COMPANY

107 Watney Street, London EC3A 2HP  
01-521 2216

### CHAPEL STREET, LONDON S.W.1

A unique period house, which sits on the site of a former  
house, has been recently converted to let UNFURNISHED WITHOUT  
PREMIUM. Large inner hall, 2 good size reception rooms, large  
kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, large  
scullery, south facing roof terrace, storage cellar. LEASE 1 TO  
3 YEARS BY ARRANGEMENT. RENT £57,500.

**KINGSTON HOUSE NORTH, LONDON SW7**  
A quiet and spacious flat in a most COMPE-  
TENT PRICE TO RENT. 2 reception rooms, 2 bedrooms,  
2 bathrooms, large kitchen, 6th, central heating, care and  
maintenance. LEASE 42 YEARS. GROUND RENT £5 PER ANNUM.  
SWAN COURT, LONDON SW3  
A bright 2nd floor flat. Reception room, 2 bedrooms, modern  
kitchen, bathroom, lift, central heating, care and maintenance.  
LEASE 42 YEARS. GROUND RENT £5 PER ANNUM.  
PRICE EXCELLENT VALUE AT £13,850.

## LONDON FLATS

### KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CPK Construction are producing  
1, 2, 3 & 4 bed flats in Grosvenor  
Gardens, Earl Court Square, Har-  
court Terrace, Southside Square, West-  
minster Terrace and 100 Grosvenor  
Road. The flats are of a high standard  
and are available at very  
low prices.  
1 bed: £13,250 to £15,000  
2 bed: £16,500 to £22,750  
3 bed: £18,500 to £25,500  
4 bed: £22,000.  
For full details  
01-521 2216

## WALTON STREET, SW3

A three floor flat in a war-  
ning black and white style. An  
excellent example of a period  
flat. Reception room, kitchen,  
bathroom, bedroom, study,  
dining room, 2nd floor, 3rd floor,  
4th floor, 5th floor, 6th floor,  
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